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Brutality can't snuff out intifada: Amir

MOSCOW, March 2. (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad today stressed that use of military force and coercive practices would never succeed in ending the Palestinian people's struggle.

He also said Kuwait stays away from international conflicts and rejects building foreign military bases on territories of other countries.

The Amir, speaking in an extensive interview with the widely-circulated Soviet weekly magazine "Ogonyok," published here today, said Israel has been exploiting "all inhuman means" to eliminate the Palestinian people, expel them from their homeland and obliterate their national identity.

But Israel acknowledged that military forces would not put off the torch of the Palestinian people's struggle, on the contrary it would incite the Palestinians for further steadfastness and bring them more closer to their legitimate objectives, the Amir asserted.

"This is what we were taught by history, and Israel should recognise realities and facts of mankind's struggle throughout history."

The Amir pointed out that the Palestinian struggle has witnessed two major developments represented by the eruption of the glorious intifada (uprising), which has now entered its third year, and the courageous and positive peace initiative adopted by the Palestinian leadership during the Palestinian National Council's session in November, 1988.

Sheikh Jaber noted that the Palestinian (Continued on Page 8)

17 perish in Cairo Sheraton blaze

Death in hotel fire

CAIRO, March 2. (Agencies): Police said a 17th body was found today in the debris of the Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel. There was uncertainty over the fate of three American guests at the burned-out hotel, and three Britons were reported missing.

Meanwhile, the US embassy said an American victim of the fire was tentatively identified as a 61-year-old Houston man who had been in Egypt only hours when the fire ignited early yesterday. And in Loodoo, the Foreign Office said a British victim had been identified but relatives not yet notified.

The fire, set off by sparks from a peasant-type bread oven in a tourist tent, raged for nine hours through the Sheraton's lobby and many of its 630 rooms. Strong winds, common at this time of year in Egypt, and the lack of an alarm system or sprinklers, were blamed for the fire's rapid spread.

Col. Ahmed Harb, the Heliopolis area police chief, said the body found this morning had not been identified, the seventh victim whose identity is unknown. He said those found and identified yesterday were three Finns, three French, a Greek and three Americans.

The director of Cairo's central morgue, Dr. Kamal Al Saadani, said he had received bodies of 17 victims, 14 of whom died of burns and three of asphyxia.

Remains of five women still have not been identified, he said. The others were a Greek, a Briton, a Chilean and three nationals each of France, Finland and the United States.

But a US embassy spokeswoman said only one American was confirmed dead, although three were unaccounted for. The discrepancy was unexplained, as was the difference in official accounts of yesterday that eight French nationals had died.

Forensic and explosives experts told Cairo television there was no evidence of sabotage or arson in the blaze.

Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan told reporters 1,000 people were in the Sheraton when the fire broke out in a tented coffee shop at 1 am and spread quickly to the hotel lobby.

Many guests leapt from windows to escape, some clutching children or pushing them out and jumping after them.

"I saw foreigners clutching children jump from the sixth floor," said Egyptian housewife Nadia Ahmed Bahgat.

Bahgat said she was feeding her month-old baby in a first floor room when she smelled smoke. She pushed her three children out of the window and then jumped after them.

Cairo television showed people (Continued on Page 7)



Smoke billowing from the remains of the Sheraton hotel in Cairo (above), and (below) fireman carry the body of an unidentified victim who died in the fire. (Reuters wirephoto)

Premier meets 32 deputies today

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will this evening meet 32 deputies who were members of the 1985 dissolved National Assembly.

The group will include former Assembly speaker, Ahmad Al Saadoun, his deputy Saleh Al Fadalah and it will be the second time that the Crown Prince meets this group of parliamentarians. The first meeting took place on Feb 7.

Sheikh Saad is due to confer with other parliamentarians later in the week and these meetings will include former speakers, deputies and other personalities with the aim of arriving at a suitable formula to expand the popular participation.

Informed sources have said that Sheikh Saad will not make any concrete proposals at this juncture, preferring to listen to the former deputies' remarks on the future of the National Assembly. The sources affirmed that differences of opinion still exist, but the gap has been greatly narrowed after the first meeting.

Sources said that the political leadership is hopeful of arriving at a comprehensive settlement based on the desire of all parties to overcome the adverse aspects of the past.

They added that there is an intention to arrive at new principles for the assembly. The outcome of the dialogue will indicate whether to adopt these new principles, or whether to continue working with the old formula and then gradually include the new principles.

Massacre: 60 die in Kashmir

Curfew in valley: Pakistan condemns killings

SRINAGAR, India, March 2. (Agencies): About 1,000 Muslims wearing death shrouds tried to march to Srinagar today, a day after government troops opened fire on two other processions and killed 60 people, news agencies reports said.

A senior police official said marchers demanding independence for Kashmir gathered in Sumbal, 25 km (15 miles) north of Srinagar, but were stopped by soldiers before they could leave the town.

Exactly how many people died and what prompted security forces to open fire during yesterday's demonstrations were disputed questions today.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir state, whose summer capital of Srinagar was the venue of the anti-India protests, said 49 people were killed when security forces opened fire to defend themselves from stone-throwing mobs.

The separatists were marching towards Srinagar and in both cases tried to seize guns from the security forces who then opened fire, other witnesses said, also speaking on condition they not be identified.

Intelligence officials put the death toll at 33 while a senior police officer, who asked not to be identified, said 40 died.

Neighbouring Pakistan, a Muslim nation that disputes India's right to govern Kashmir, condemned what it called the "brutal Indian response... to the people of Kashmir, who were asking only for their right of self-determination."

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government said Thursday's killings were the result of "wanton shooting by the Indian security forces."

In New Delhi, a government spokesman said Indian troops opened fire because they were attacked. He, too, spoke on condition of anonymity, in keeping with the usual government practice.

A curfew was imposed in Srinagar today (2230 GMT Thursday), leaving the city's streets deserted except for army and paramilitary police. A curfew was also clamped on six nearby towns.

The loudspeakers on mosques, which often blare Islamic and pro-independence slogans, were quiet today, the weekly Muslim holy day that is often a flashpoint for trouble.

"They were forced to return back," the officer said without elaborating. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Witnesses contacted by telephone said the demonstrators wore shrouds, symbolising a willingness to sacrifice their lives.

At least 60 people were killed and between 45 and 100 were wounded yesterday when soldiers and paramilitary forces fired on two separate processions demanding secession of Muslim-dominated Kashmir from predominantly Hindu India.



Indian Army soldiers train their guns while standing guard in Srinagar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kabul may free Arabs

By Shaker Al Jouhari

AFGHANISTAN is willing to consider requests to free Arab prisoners or reduce their sentences, Afghan President Najibullah, told the Arab Times in an exclusive interview.

The Afghan leader speaking on the political and diplomatic scene in his country added: "I am willing to step down if such an action could guarantee the establishment of a lasting peace in the country."

He said he would make special concessions to attain peace, "though the latter could not be attained by sacrificing the country's sovereignty or any of its national interests."

Speaking on the peace process, Najibullah said that he envisages holding wide-ranging conferences with all peace seeking groups in the country that would hopefully lead to the information of a council, which will draft a constitution and set election rules. During the interim period, a ceasefire will prevail. He called for international supervision of such elections.

The Afghan leader expressed his appreciation and those of his officials to all countries who played a positive role in speeding up the peace process and stressed that Afghanistan still great hopes on Kuwait as it is the current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

(See Page 7)

Israel gags press on Jews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 2. (Reuters): Israel imposed sweeping censorship today on all news reports about Soviet Jewish immigration.

The IDF (Israeli army) censor announces that all material pertaining to immigration of Soviet Jews must be submitted to the censor prior to publication, "an army statement said."

(See Page 7)

Weather

FAIR weather with moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: moderate

High water: 4.05 am, 3.20 pm

Low water: 9.45 am, 10.45 pm

Sunrise: 6.12 am

Sunset: 5.49 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Beirut: 27°C 72°F

Aleppo: 21°C 70°F

Fallaka: 22°C 72°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 9°C 48°F

Aleppo: 12°C 54°F

Fallaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Aleppo: 19°C 66°F

Fallaka: 19°C 66°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 82 per cent

Aleppo: 86 per cent

Fallaka: 85 per cent

Aoun bows to church pressure

BEIRUT, March 2. (Reuters): General Michel Aoun's troops today gave up some of their latest gains in savage fighting with the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in a withdrawal apparently prompted by church pressure.

The troops withdrew shortly after Lebanese Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir threatened Christian warlords and their men with excommunication unless they halted their month-old war for control of East Beirut.

"Thus, they will be expelled from the church body and prevented (Continued on Page 7)

Rajiv is in trouble after poll debacle

Maharashtra saves face

NEW DELHI, March 2. (Agencies): Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party has been edged out of power in five of eight state legislatures following elections this week, results showed today.

It retained control in the western state of Maharashtra and avoided results from the crucial state of Bihar, where it faced stiff competition from the Janata Dal Party of Prime Minister V.P. Singh. Gandhi's political foe and successor.

Elections, marked by widespread violence and allegations of election fraud, were held on Tuesday for 1,610 seats in the eight states of the federally administered southern region of Pondicherry.

All nine legislatures had been controlled by the Congress Party.

The defeats came three months after Rajiv's party was voted out of power in the national parliament elections. Political analysts and newspapers have attributed the loss to alleged corruption and incompetence in the federal and state governments.

At least 80 people were killed in Bihar, India's poorest state, in bombings, police shootings and clashes since voting began. Nation-wide, 98 people died in election-related violence.

Results from the elections showed the Congress Party had lost Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, to the Janata Dal and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party. Few results from the eighth state, Arunachal Pradesh, had come in.

The Congress also lost the Pondicherry assembly.

"It would clearly take a super-human effort by the party to recover the lost ground in the coming days," said the Statesman, a Calcutta-based independent daily newspaper.

Another newspaper, Patriot, said "the results from Maharashtra came as a morale booster to the Congress which had been stunned by its second debacle in three months."

(Continued on Page 2)

Supreme Court orders Enrile hearing

MANILA, March 2. (Agencies): The Philippine Supreme Court yesterday gave President Corason Aquino's government five days to produce failed opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile in court and ordered it to explain why he was arrested.

Aquino denied the arrest of former defence minister Enrile was the start of a crackdown against political opposition, and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said numerous martial law could be imposed were "farcical."

"The Enrile case is purely a legal process and is not politically motivated," Aquino said in a press statement.

Aquino's chief General Renato de Villa said troops were on alert against any possible action by dissident officers who have launched six coup attempts.

"But I think they would not do anything, because if they would do anything it will be to the disadvantage of Enrile, he told Manila press."

Aquino said it was up to the Supreme Court to decide whether the charges against Enrile were valid, and



Enrile in detention (Reuters wirephoto)

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Details inside page

INTERNATIONAL

Independence declared

India refuses to back Lankan Tamil rebels move

COLOMBO, March 2, (UPI): Former Tamil rebel groups that took power in North-eastern Province yesterday declared themselves the government of an independent Tamil nation despite a probable onslaught by more powerful rivals and the withdrawal of the Indian army's protection.

The province's ruling council led by the Indian-backed Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), however, said it would reverse its decision if the Colombo government fulfils within one year a list of political demands.

"It is hereby declared that commencing today, the first day of March anno domini, this council will function as the National State Assembly of the free and sovereign

Democratic Republic of Eelam," said a statement.

"Today I cease to be chief minister and my ministers cease to be ministers," Vartharaja Perumal, chief minister of council told his allies.

Perumal said the National Assembly would meet on May 7 and would function as a body to draw up a constitution for a sovereign state.

"The council was elected in 1988 to work for the Tamils but the central government did not give it enough support. We got step-motherly treatment," he said.

After the meeting, instead of using the vehicles provided by the government, the members walked out accompanied by Indian troops.

India said today it would not back any move by minority Tamils in Sri Lanka to form an independent state on the island and name it Eelam.

"India has always made it clear in unambiguous terms that India supports the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. In keeping with the clear policy, India does not support any call for Eelam in any form," an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

"This council announces it will be prepared to reconsider the two declarations... only if the government of Sri Lanka fulfils fully and completely the under-mentioned demands," the Eelam statement said.

Among the conditions was the granting of powers to the council on a par with those afforded the states of India, the transfer to the province of all federally owned lands there and a halt of migration to the area by majority Buddhist Sinhalese.

The council also demanded that Sri Lankan troops be restricted to five bases and remaining military facilities in the province be dismantled and that a second

chamber be created in the national parliament in which all of Sri Lanka's ethnic groups would have equal representation.

The council called on "all nations of the world and international organisations to recognise and support these declarations," the statement said.

The declaration was issued in the eastern port city of Trincomalee after a meeting between the EPRLF and several other former Tamil rebel groups that govern under a coalition known as the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front.

A Colombo official said the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa was expected to retaliate by dissolving the council formed by the groups with Indian backing under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

The declaration of independence follows a severe deterioration in relations between EPRLF Chief Minister Varadaraja Perumal and Colombo, which last summer initiated a dialogue with the LTTE and agreed to a ceasefire.



Charged with rebellion

Rebeco Panilio (left), a luxury hotel owner charged together with opposition leader Juan Enrile with rebellion and murder, was presented to the press on March 2, a day after he and his wife surrendered to authorities in Manila. At right is National Bureau of Investigation chief retired General Alfredo Lim. (Reuters wirephoto)

US urged to be ready to pull bases out of Philippines

WASHINGTON, March 2, (UPI): Members of Congress encouraged Defence Secretary Dick Cheney yesterday to look for alternatives to the US naval and air bases in the Philippines, with one taking a critical jab at President Corazon Aquino.

"I really do not know what Mrs Aquino was up to," an obviously irritated congressman William Broomfield, Republican of

Michigan, told Cheney.

"She not only soured you," Broomfield said, "but she snubbed the entire (bloc of) members of Congress who have been strong supporters of the Philippines."

Broomfield, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was referring to Aquino's refusal to meet with Cheney during his visit to the Philippines last month.

Cheney was testifying before the panel on his 1991 budget request.

Aquino said at the time she would not meet with Cheney because US news media had reported that other Bush administration officials who had visited her had told her to get her government in order.

Cheney did not respond directly to Broomfield's criticism of Aquino.

Manila issues arrest warrant

Troops hunt defiant governor

TUGUEGARAO, March 2, (UPI): Troops deployed today in a northern town in a bid to flush out a defiant provincial governor charged with rebellion for attempting to overthrow President Corazon Aquino, the military said.

Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo slipped from the Cagayao province capital of Tuguegarao on Tuesday after an arrest warrant was issued by a judge in Manila for rebellion with murder in connection with the Dec. 19 coup attempt.

Aguinaldo, a former constabulary colonel, was reported by his lawyers to have taken refuge in the logging town of Gattaran and would fight efforts to arrest him with his private army of hill tribesmen and communist rebel returnees.

An army battalion of about 400 men was sent to Gattaran to augment local forces while military civil relations chief Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, who flew to Tuguegarao from Manila, appealed to Aguinaldo to surrender.

In Manila, private television station Channel 7 reported that Aguinaldo has taken 12 soldiers, including a captain, as hostages and has set up roadblocks on all approaches to Gattaran.

Armed forces Chief Gen. Renato de Villa ordered the military today to employ "reasonable force" to dismantle the barricades and to arrest the fugitive governor. He said the military was verifying reports that Aguinaldo has an armoured vehicle with him.

"We don't want a bloody confrontation, but we have to implement the law," Florendo said in a radio interview in Tuguegarao, north of Manila.

Rajiv is in trouble after poll debacle

(Continued from Page 1)

The Congress had won 142 seats in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 39, while Janata Dal took 25, with the rest splintered among smaller parties and independents.

But overall, the Congress Party has only 343 of the 1,367 seats declared in the eight states and Pondicherry.

In the eastern state of Bihar, which has the latest assembly, among 136 constituencies, results of 136 constituencies were announced with Congress receiving 23 seats, Janata Dal 52 and Bharatiya Janata Party 15. The rest went to smaller parties and independents.

The Election Commission had ordered repolling 1,000 voting centres in Bihar after complaints of ballot stuffing, voter intimidation and widespread violence.

Today, soldiers patrolled the streets of Meham town in Haryana state, where at least 13 people were killed during a by-election for the state legislature.

The violence was blamed on supporters of Om Prakash Chautala, the Janata Dal candidate in Meham and the Chief Minister of Haryana.

Newspapers said violence erupted when supporters of Chautala tried to stuff ballot boxes and scare voters in areas where he was not expected to get many votes.

Janata Dal spokesman Jaipal Reddy told reporters yesterday that the party would take disciplinary action against Chautala if he were found guilty of violence.

"Nobody will be above this process," he said.

The BJP will likely try flexing its new-found political muscle in shaping policy to press on the government of Vishanath Pratap Singh, diplomats said.

Singh heads a minority government that can only survive with support from two groups that detest each other, the BJP and smaller communist parties.

With 1,392 seats officially declared out of total of 1,615 at stake, the BJP had captured 472, Singh's Janata Dal party had 377 and Congress 349.

"Nothing has really changed," BJP president L.K. Advani said in an interview on state-run television.

"The issues at the state level are different from the national level," Advani said it would be easier to work out coalition governments with the Janata Dal in the states than to agree on a common programme at the centre.

Indian coalition in centre likely

NEW DELHI, March 2, (Reuters): Returns from eight state elections showed clear signs of major changes in Indian politics — with Hindu fundamentalists triumphant and the long-dominant Congress Party heading for humiliation.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress, ousted from national power last November for only the second time in 42 years, had held all of the states that voted for new assemblies.

But as results poured in, trends showed the party which spearheaded the fight for India's independence from Britain being routed in five of the eight contests.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, fast becoming a powerful national political force, looked certain to capture three states.

In two, Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal was running comfortably in front.

In the remaining three states, insufficient results had been declared to show a clear trend or counting had not started.

The success of the BJP, committed to making India a Hindu nation, and scrapping constitutional safeguards for the country's 100 million Muslims, brought immediate signs of changing political thinking at the national level.

Right up to the state elections, BJP leaders had insisted the party would continue to support, with a critical eye, V.P. Singh's minority government from outside.

But by the euphoria of emerging victory on Wednesday night, BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani said the party was thinking of changing its mind.

"There is a possibility of a coalition government at the centre," he said.

Even more surprisingly George Fernandes, railway minister and one of the centrist Janata Dal's leading socialist, predicted that night indeed happen.

The BJP's fortunes have improved dramatically in recent months. It held only two seats in the old Parliament but grabbed 88 in the November elections.

It support is crucial to the survival of Singh's national front government although the prime minister is known to be uncomfortable with the party's devotion to Hindu fundamentalism.

About 90 people were killed in the state assembly polls on Tuesday, most in the crime-ridden north Indian state of Bihar.

Congress won none of the first five seats declared in Bihar. The only state political analysts expected it to come even close to holding its own.

Even before the election there were strong murmurs of criticism of Rajiv's leadership from inside a party unused to losing elections.



Relatives mourn Dalbir Singh, one of 10 people killed during battles between rival political parties for polling stations in Meham of Haryana state. (Reuters wirephoto)

Massacre: 60 die in Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

The police officer said that today one group of separatists defied the curfew and gathered near Dal Lake, a scenic tourist haven in more peaceful times. The group was chased away by paramilitary troops, he said.

An unidentified protester fell to his death in the cold lake, he added.

On Thursday, witnesses estimated that more than one million people marched through Srinagar, the centre of the secessionist movement and the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

Thursday's killing was certainly the bloodiest event by far in a campaign against Indian rule, fuelled by powerful militant groups India charges are armed and trained by Pakistan.

Before dawn today, policemen in Srinagar's main town of the city were seen patrolling the streets.

"Anyone," they said, "repeat anyone," seen on the streets would be shot on sight. The threat, unlike earlier ones, was taken seriously. Even the side streets and alleys of the old city of Srinagar were empty.

The only incident that broke the curfew ended peacefully as police turned back 15 truckloads of people heading into the city to mourn the dead from Thursday's protests.

The demonstrations in which hundreds of thousands of people took part climaxed a week of mounting protests following the lifting of a curfew that had lasted several weeks.

The centre of the demonstrations was the Srinagar office of the United Nations observer mission, which monitors the dividing line between the one-third of Kashmir administered by Pakistan and the larger part under Indian rule.

Each demonstration has handed a petition to a UN official demanding a plebiscite on the future of Indian Kashmir, where militant groups fighting against Delhi's rule have grown steadily more powerful over the past year.

In a related development in New Delhi, three members of Parliament from the former Jammu and Kashmir state ruling party urged Prime Minister V.P. Singh to order a high-level judicial commission to investigate the killings.

The three, who staged a day-long sit-in on the lawns of the Parliament building, also called for the dismissal of Governor Jagmohan, who was seen as a key figure in the Indian government's policy in Kashmir.

Agha Shahi says it will be ironic to take the Kashmir issue again to the United Nations for a solution.

"We will suffer a set-back because we cannot get majority of votes there," he said while talking to journalists at the Mullay protest club yesterday.

Shahi was of the opinion that members of the United Nations would not like to jetison their interests for the sake of Pakistan, moreover the two super-powers were now reluctant to extend whole-hearted support to Pakistan not only on Afghanistan issue but also on the Kashmir issue.

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Funeral Announcement



Mr Miguel (Michael) Jose D'Silva
Born: 7th December, 1936
Died: 27th February, 1990
Funeral services will be held on Saturday the 3rd March, 1990, at 4.00 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait.
Inserted by: Sorrowing wife Cecilia, son Junes, daughters Georgina, Anita and Severine and relatives.

Pindi rioters teargassed

RAWALPINDI, March 2, (Reuters): Police fired teargas and charged into crowds in at least two Pakistani cities today to disperse violent religious protesters, witnesses said.

The demonstrators at Rawalpindi, near the capital, Islamabad, and at the North West Frontier Province capital of Peshawar were protesting against the murder last week of an Islamic scholar who led a militant anti-Shiite Muslim organisation.

Haq Nawaz Jhangvi was killed by unknown gunmen on February 22 at the Punjab province town of Jhang, where a curfew was imposed later after violent protests by his followers from the majority Sunni Muslim sect.

Two thousand protesters had a stone-throwing match with police at Rawalpindi today before the police dispersed them by baton-charges and teargas, the witnesses said.

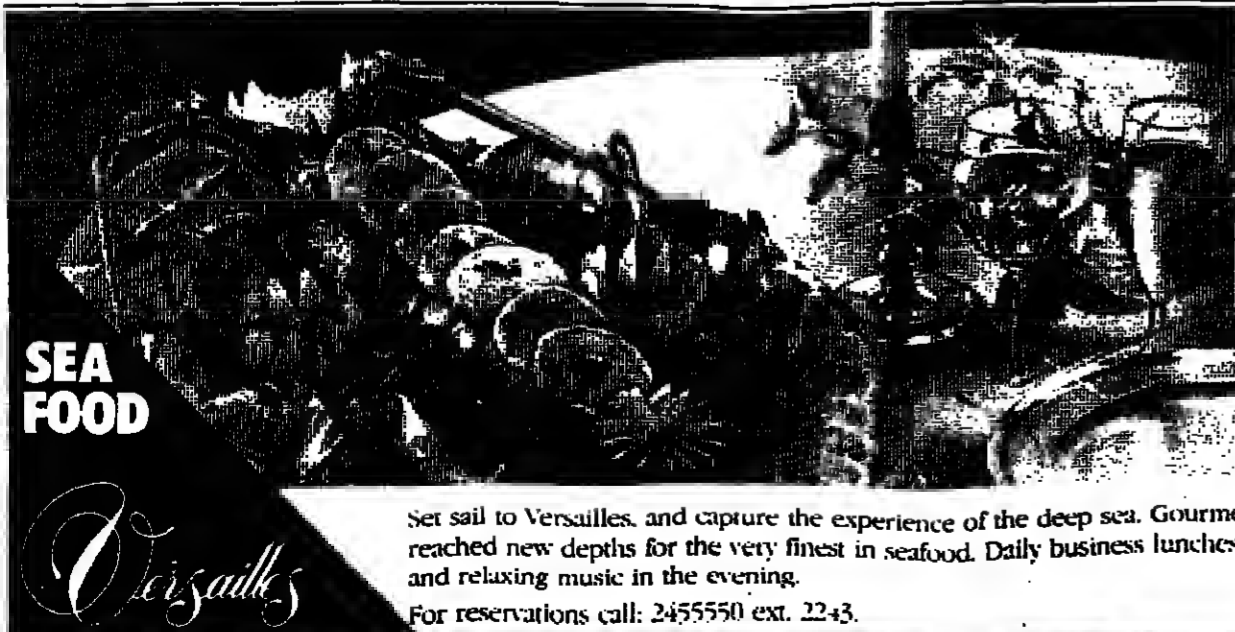
The protesters stoned the Rawalpindi office of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and police vehicles. One taxi cab was set on fire.

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Whale Starves to death

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, March 2. (Reuters). A 20-tonne blue whale, a species rarely found in the Mediterranean, starved to death off Egypt, marine experts said today.

The 22.5-metre (70-foot) whale, washed ashore west of the port city of Alexandria was brought to the port city by truck on yesterday.

The marine experts said they would examine the mammal which normally frequents colder waters where its staple diet of krill is abundant.

Douglas to get Legion D'Honneur
PARIS, March 2. (UPI). Culture Minister Jack Lang will present Kirk Douglas with the Legion D'Honneur Sunday, a short time before the US actor presides over the announcement of the prestigious French Cesar movie awards, officials said yesterday.

'Dangerous' on top of US pop

Only new entry 'Roam'

NEW YORK, March 2. (AP). The group Roxette took over the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States on Wednesday with "Dangerous." The hit disc was in fourth place a week ago.

Climbing one notch to second spot on the Cash Box magazine chart was "Escapade" by Janet Jackson. "Opposites Attract" by Paula Abdul slipped from second to third.

Last week's number one hit, "Two To Make It Right" by Seduction, tumbled to fourth. The week's only newcomer to the top 10 list was "Roam" by B52, up from 16th to 10th.

As for the country-and-western singles, "No Matter How High" by the Oak Ridge Boys took over as number one on the Cash Box magazine chart. "Chains" by Patty Loveless was second, and "Little Girl" by Reba McEntire was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (4) Dangerous — Roxette (EMI).
2. (3) Escapade — Janet Jackson (A and M).
3. (2) Opposites Attract — Paula Abdul (Virgin).
4. (1) Two To Make It Right — Seduction (Vendetta-A and M).
5. (6) All or Nothing — Milli Vanilli (Arista).
6. (7) Tell Me Why — Exposé (Arista).
7. (9) We Can't Go Wrong — Cover Girls (Capitol).
8. (5) What Kind of Man Would I Be — Chicago (Reprise).
9. (10) Here We Are — Gloria Estefan (Epic).
10. (16) Roam — B52 (Reprise/Warner Brothers).

The top 10 pop country-western singles as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) No Matter How High — The Oak Ridge Boys (MCA).
 2. (5) Chains — Patty Loveless (MCA).
 3. (3) Little Girl — Reba McEntire (MCA).
 4. (6) Seein' My Father In Me — Paul Overstreet (MCA).
 5. (11) Hard Rock Bottom — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).
 6. (7) Sooner Or Later — Eddy Raven (Universal).
 7. (8) Quitting Time — Mary Chapin Carpenter (Columbia).
 8. (1) On Second Thought — Eddie Rabbitt (Universal).
 9. (10) Not Counting You — Garth Brooks (Capitol).
 10. (14) Five Minutes — Lorraine Morgan (RCA).
- And in London, Beat International topped the British pop singles chart this week with "Dub Be Good To Me," nudging out Sinead O'Connor whose "Nothing Compares To U" was number one for five weeks.
- "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" by Michael Bolton moved up three spots to third place. Tied for fourth were "Get



In concert

British rock star Elton John pictured in concert in Christchurch on Feb 28. John received his loudest ovation when he told his audience to "run the media out of town" because of their coverage of 7-year-old Hilary Foretich who is the centre of a bitter international custody battle. (Reuters wirephoto)

Up (Before The Night Is Over) by Technotronic featuring Ya Kid K and "I Don't Know Anybody Else" by Black Box. Joining the top 10 for the first time this week were "Elephant Stone" by Stone Roses, "The Brits 1990" by various artists and "Infinity" by Guru Josh.

This week's top 10 singles, as rated by Our Price Music Ltd, the national music retail chain, with last week's places in parentheses: 1. (2) Dub Be Good To Me — Beats International (Go). 2. (1) Nothing Compares To You — Sinead O'Connor (English). 3. (6) How Am I Supposed To Live Without — Michael Bolton (CBS). 4. (3) Get Up Before The Night Is Over — Technotronic (Swanard). 5. (4) I Don't Know Anybody Else — Black Box (De-Construction). 6. (5) Enjoy The Silence — Depeche Mode (Mute). 7. (1) Elephant Stone — Stone Roses (Silvertone). 8. (7) Walk On By — Sybil (PWL). 9. (1) The Brits 1990 — Various Artists (RCA). 10. (22) Infinity — Guru Josh (De-Construction).

PEOPLE AND PLACES

CLEMSON, South Carolina: Researchers will show the Marx Brothers, The Three Stooges, W. C. Fields and "I Love Lucy" to ailing nursing home residents to test the theory that laughter can be therapeutic.

Researchers will show about 150 nursing home residents comic films and television programmes to see if humour can reduce requests for non-prescription pain medicine, Fran McGuire, a Clemson University researcher, said this week.

"If this kind of thing is true, it would be a tremendous tool for activity directors" in nursing homes and other group settings, said McGuire.

A smaller study by Clemson two years ago indicated what appeared to be dramatic decreases in requests for drugs, he said. That could have been the result of chemical changes in the body or the result of reduced stress.

That study found that later comedies didn't do the trick, said Rosalinda Beryl, who showed the films at a nursing home as part of the earlier study.

"They did not find modern comedies, such as Three Men and A Baby, to be funny nor did they like any of the films with offensive language," she said. (AP)

UNIONDALE, New York. (AP). A screenwriter who claims his ideas were stolen for the movie "Harlem Nights" has filed a \$35 million lawsuit against Eddie Murphy, who lost a similar case in January over the film Coming to America.

Michael Greene, 35, charged Tuesday that "Harlem Nights" contains material lifted from a screenplay Greene wrote for Murphy called Halloween to Remember.

When he saw "Harlem Nights" in November, he was astounded at the similarities — about 100 in all, Greene said.

Both scripts were about 8-year-old orphans being raised by underworld characters, both were set in the 1930s and both had a corrupt Italian plainclothes cop — Sergeant Falzone in Greene's version and Sergeant Cantone in the movie, Greene said.

Named as defendants in the suit are Murphy, Paramount Pictures Corporation, the William Morris Agency and Steven Wetas.

A lawyer for Paramount, Les Fagen, denied the charge of copyright infringement, saying the scripts contained motifs common to hundreds of movies.

Greene said he submitted his script to Murphy in January 1989 and was advised it had been rejected. The script was never returned, he said.

In January, a judge ruled that Paramount Pictures had to pay humorist Art Buchwald for a script idea he claimed was the basis for Murphy's hit 1988 movie "Coming to America." The amount of the payment has not been settled. (AP)

AMSTERDAM, New York: A former mayor of Amsterdam says he rues the day he dedicated a city park in the name of actor Kirk Douglas, who described Amsterdam as a "dirty mill town" in his 1988 autobiography.

"I will go to my grave regretting my part in putting a park in his honour here," Mario Villa, a city ward supervisor, said Monday. Kirk Douglas Park was dedicated in a 1985 ceremony attended by Douglas and thousands of well-wishers, including Villa, then mayor.

In "The Ragman's Son," Douglas says his neighbours in the town near Albany discriminated against him when he was growing up here because he was the son of a poor Russian Jewish immigrant. Douglas claimed he was beaten and denied jobs because he was Jewish.

Villa said the claims of discrimination were false, and he described Douglas as "nothing but a hollow, phony individual" with little concern for his hometown.

UNIVERSAL CITY, California: "There's A Tear In My Beer," a melancholy country song, helped Hank Williams Jr. and his father earn 11 Academy of Country Music Award nominations 37 years after the elder Williams' death.

Williams got six nominations, including Entertainer of the Year, and the Grammy-winning song Collaboration led to five.

omnations for his father, who died in 1953.

"The ones for daddy are particularly important. I want to see daddy shine after these 37 years," Williams said Tuesday.

Cling Black also got six nominations, including best album and song for "Killing Time," and five went to Grammy-winning singer Rodney Crowell for "After All This Time."



Israeli beauty queen

Israeli beauty queen for 1990, 18-year-old Yevonna Krogliack, is shown just after receiving her crown in this picture taken on Feb 27. Ms Krogliack was born in Riga, Russia and came to Israel at the age of two. After spending some years in the US, she returned to Israel to finish her studies and join the army. (Reuters wirephoto)



Vacation cut short

Prince Charles prepares to set off for some skiing in Davos, Feb. 28. He cut short his skiing holidays to return to England because of serious footrotting there. (Reuters wirephoto)

PENSACOLA, Florida: Janet Jackson gave an unscheduled benefit concert for homeless people and other charities in Pensacola, where she has been rehearsing for her first world tour.

"Janet... has gotten such a tremendous amount of work done that she feels ready to perform," said Lee Eskelsen, director of the Pensacola Civic Centre, where the rock singer's concert was held Tuesday night.

Ms Jackson had used the arena to practice for a tour that opens Thursday in Miami.

"She is a generous person," Eskelsen said. "She wants to give something back to the civic centre and Pensacola for allowing her to work here comfortably."

مطلوب معدات انشائية ولسوازم

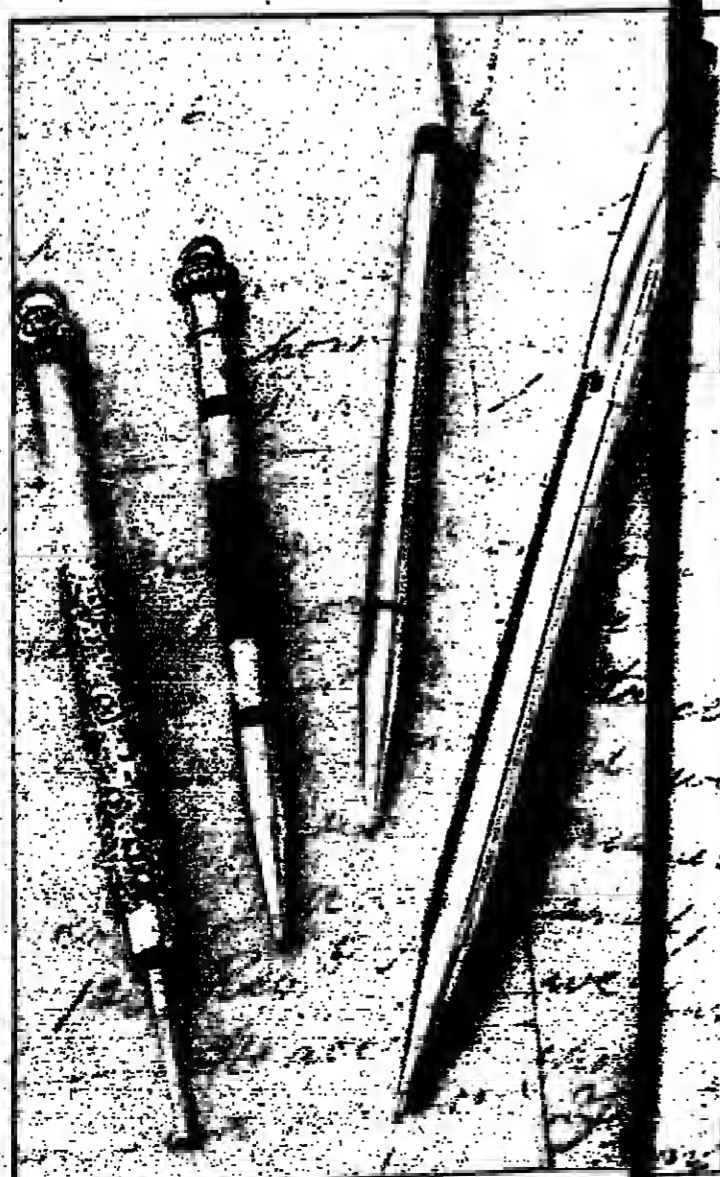
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4. Transit mixers, concrete pumps, cement bulkers and silos and concrete vibrators, batching plants, crushing plants.
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6. Generators and welding machines.

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Quotations shall include, among other things, year of manufacture of equipments/vehicles and its registration validity. Quotations must be received on or before 10.3.1990.

AT Cross introduces new line



AT Cross makers of fine writing instruments introduced a new line of 0.5mm mechanical pencils last week here in Kuwait.

The 0.5mm pencil is now available in all Cross finishes including: Lustrous chrome, gray, classic black, silver plate, 10 carat rolled gold, 14 carat rolled gold, sterling silver and 18 carat gold. Cross will continue to offer its 0.9mm pencil.

Like all Cross writing instruments, the new 0.5mm pencil carries the Cross lifetime guarantee against mechanical failure and can be personalised with engraving.

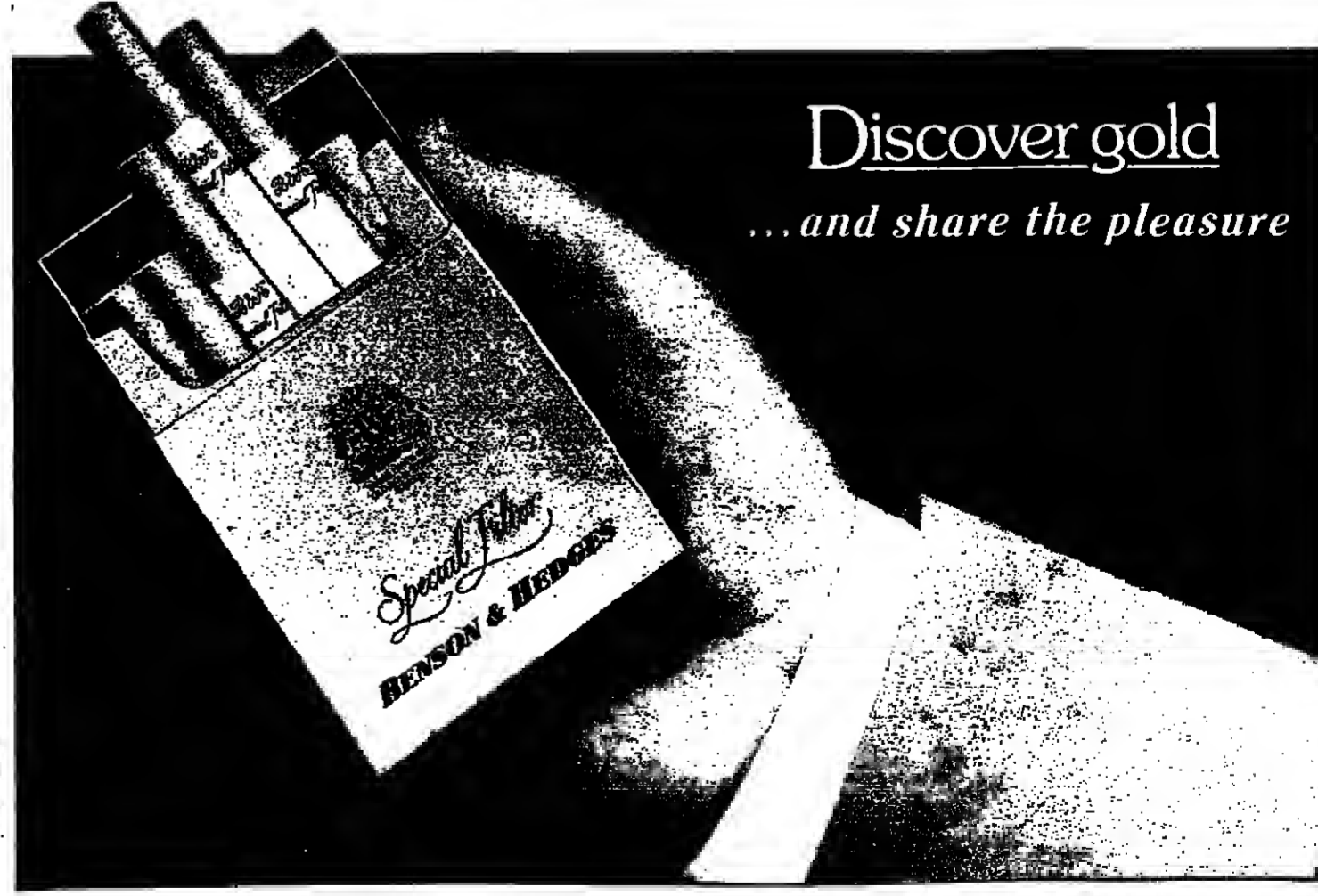
The new 0.5mm pencil offers consumers with a new option in the thin-lead mechanical pencil category, which is appealing to business professionals and engineers, who often require a precise lead point.

The new 0.5mm pencil is distinguished by three features: — Two option for lead extension: twisting the cap of barrel or pushing on the eraser.

— A non-spill lead cassette that conveniently feeds lead to the pencil mechanism.

— A lead protector that protects the lead from breaking and slides to expose more lead while writing.

Established in 1846, Cross has been making mechanical pencils since the 1800s.



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Strong quake hits California

Pomona damage \$20m

LOS ANGELES, March 2, (Agencies): The earthquake which rocked southern California on Wednesday, injuring at least eight people and causing damage to downtown Los Angeles, has affected a much wider area than first estimated.

Pomona city struck by a jolting earthquake, estimated damage at \$20 million yesterday as safety inspectors across the region began a street-by-street look at their communities' older buildings and roads.

Initial reports said the quake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale, had struck a 150-mile (240 km) coastal stretch from Newport Beach south of Los Angeles to Santa Barbara to the north.

But as aftershocks shuddered through the region, reports of damage came in from as far south as the Mexican border and from 80 miles (130 km) inland at Las Vegas and Palm Springs, an area of some 13,000 square miles (34,000 square km).

At least 17 aftershocks were felt within four hours of the main quake. The California office of emergency services warned more aftershocks "as large or larger" would continue for the next three days.

The US Geological Survey said the epicentre of the quake was at Uplands, a small town 35 miles (55 km) east of Los Angeles nestled under Mount Baldy mountain.

Road crews worked overnight to clear giant boulders rolled onto the Los Angeles freeway system by landslides. Rocks twice the size of cars were thrown on to the roadways.

The 20-second tremor, which struck at 3:45 pm (2345 GMT), shook buildings, paralysed telephone services and caused power outages and broken gas and water lines.

Most of Wednesday's aftershocks were recorded at between

3.0 and 4.0, although one was recorded at 4.8. A Richter reading of 5.5 is considered capable of causing severe damage.

Pomona, 25 miles (40 km) east of Los Angeles and close to the epicentre, was worst hit. Workers at the town's city hall scrambled under their desks as ceiling panels and heavy fluorescent lights rained down on them.

The building's large decorative windows "literally popped out and shattered all over the sidewalk," a city spokeswoman said. No one was injured.

Four towns — Pomona, La Verne, Claremont and Uplands — declared local states of emergency. The wall of an auto parts warehouse collapsed in La Verne and the ceiling tiles of a popular restaurant in Claremont came crashing down.

As the tremor rolled through Southern California, the San Clemente nuclear power station was temporarily shut down as a precaution. So were a number of popular rides at the Disneyland theme park in Anaheim.

Last October an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale hit the San Francisco area, killing 67 people and causing extensive damage to roads and buildings.

The last major earthquake in Los Angeles killed three people and caused \$368 million in property damage on Oct 1, 1987. It measured 5.9.

The worst in the area hit Long Beach, 5 miles (40 km) south of Los Angeles, in 1933 and killed 117 people.

Pomona Mayor Donna Davis made a preliminary damage estimate of \$20 million, said city fire department inspector Ron Gomez. The city of 113,000, the largest town in the immediate vicinity of the epicentre near Uplands, is roughly 10 miles (16 kilometres) south of the epicentre.

164 die in 'most peaceful' Rio carnival of decade

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 2, (UPI): At least 164 people died in carnival in Rio de Janeiro — 72 of them homicides — by the time the festival season ended at noon Wednesday, but police called this year's festival the most peaceful in a decade.

Nearly 84,000 dancers from 16 different samba schools took to the streets during the five nights of this year's carnival, seeming to forget for a few hours Brazil's inflation, expected to soar above 70 per cent in February.

In Rio de Janeiro, the samba schools competed before a capacity crowd in the 80,000-seat Sambadrome stadium, with some dances lasting 90 minutes.

The coveted first place prize of the samba school parade went to Mocidade Independente de Padre Miguel, whose elaborate theme chronicled the history of the samba troupes that each year cast thousands in the carnival festivities.

The Beija Flor Samba school came in second with its theme on the origins of mankind. Winners were selected by a jury of artists and intellectuals.

Police said at least 164 people died in the parks and streets of the city in assaults, traffic accidents and drunken brawls during revelry making the final days of permissiveness before Christians begin the 40-day fast of Lent.

Police called 72 of the deaths

homicides. Despite the high numbers, police attributed the deaths to "isolated incidents" and said this year's carnival was the least violent in 10 years.

Many Brazilians practice for months in the samba schools dance troupes to learn elaborate choreographed routines involving thousands of dancers.

Almost all the parade organisations respected this year's ban on total nudity, as brightly coloured elaborate floats accompanied the dancers tended to censoring the power that Brazil has on the transfer of power that Brazilian faces March 15, when president-elect Fernando Collor de Mello takes office.

In the only serious accident related to

the Rio de Janeiro parade, two people were electrocuted and a third suffered serious burns when the float they were pushing, a 28-foot-high (8.5 m) depiction of a waterfall, hit a high tension wire.

In Santa Cruz, Batman was crying because his costume was torn — but this small boy's fancy dress was a rare casualty in Santa Cruz de Teresopolis Carnival, Europe's biggest street dance.

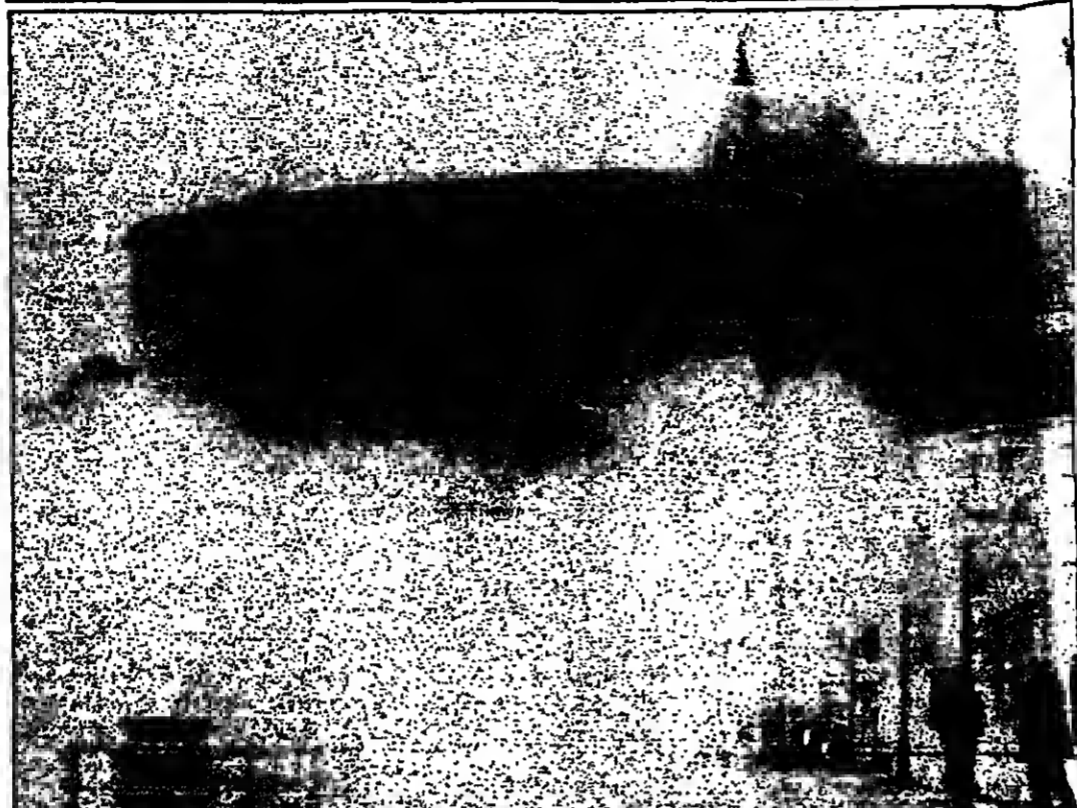
For three weeks in February and March this city in Spain's Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa sees an eruption of colour and sound worthy of the Teide volcano which towers over the islands.

It has entered the Guinness Book of

Records as Europe's biggest open-air dance, with 300,000 revellers in fancy dress shaking to Salsa music in the Plaza de Espana beside the Atlantic Ocean, but is free of the violence that plagues Rio de Janeiro's king of carnivals.

"Of all the carnivals I've been to in all the world this is where I feel best," said Martin, a bongo drummer with the Venezuelan Salsa band, Billo's Caracas Boys.

In the past five years tourists from all over Europe have begun to flock to Santa Cruz for the carnival and it is nearly impossible to find a hotel room or book a flight despite a general slump in tourism in the Canaries.



Huge wave hits the Etretat cliff, north-western France. Gales up to 130 kph continue to blow across N-W Europe for the last five days. (Reuters wirephoto)



A train that was blown off the track while crossing Oberalp pass, Switzerland. The train was carrying 150 passengers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Storms bring new misery to Europe

LONDON, March 2, (Agencies): Icey winds and heavy snow yesterday brought new misery to storm-battered Europe, where this week's turbulent weather has claimed at least 82 victims from Ireland to Greece.

Britain, France and West Germany suffered the highest casualties and the worst damage from uprooted trees, downed power lines, blocked roads and flooded villages.

Some towns along Denmark's North East coast were also flooded. The popular Swiss ski resort of Zermatt remained cut off by snow. Gale-whipped seas devastated the seaweed harvest off Wales, denying Welshmen their traditional St David's Day breakfast delicacy of laverbread, which is made with the plant.

Nineteen people were reported killed in France, 18 in Britain, 16 in West Germany, and one each in Austria, Greece, Ireland and the Netherlands.

In Denmark, the search for a 32-year-old West German and his 6-year-old son who ventured out on a fishing trip in a small boat Monday was called off and the two were presumed drowned.

Winds up to 140 kph (95 mph) hit much of West Germany yesterday, disrupting rail, streetcar and automobile traffic.

Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana interrupted a week-long skiing holiday in Switzerland and flew to Wales in freezing rain and driving wind to meet some of the 800 residents evacuated from the seaside resort of town after its sea wall broke.

"Things like this always bring out the best in the British," said the 41-year-old heir to the throne after visiting nearby Bodelwyddan Castle where 150 people had taken shelter.

"I saw a lot of damage and floods. It is very worrying, particularly for the elderly people who don't want to leave their homes," he said.

Snow was falling in most of Scotland and northern Ireland, and snow in northern and eastern England closed roads and caused a spate of accidents. A cedar tree crashed through the roof of 14th-century St. Margaret's church at Starston, in Norfolk.

In Switzerland, winds reached a peak of 125 mph (203 kph) on the 11,400-foot (3,457-metre) Jungfrauoch Wednesday night and authorities warned of increased avalanche risks in many parts of the Alps.

In France, the latest round of storms that began on Monday killed at least 19 people according to the civil defence centre for operations and administration.

Since Jan 25, recurring storms have caused more than 6 million francs (\$1 million) worth of damage throughout France, according to the insurance documentation and information centre. The national forest office reported that the storms have destroyed about 100,000 trees in Normandy alone since Jan 25.

French authorities reported four more deaths during Wednesday's storms when winds in some areas reached 93 mph (150 kph). Two firemen were killed by an uprooted tree, a man was swept out to sea by a wave, and another was killed when a piece of his roof hit him as he worked in his garden. Another Frenchman was killed in a crash yesterday when he tried to steer his car around a fallen tree, police said.

President Francois Mitterrand and a delegation of other officials visited the hard-hit coastal towns of Fecamp and Etretat in Normandy to inspect wind damage.

"I wanted to show my solidarity in meeting with those who are living through this hard time," he said.

In Belgium, police reported that two children died Wednesday night in a house fire in Meerbeek near Brussels when firemen, blocked by trees obstructing the road, could not reach the burning house. A couple died when their car crashed into a tree blocking a road southeast of Brussels.

Traffic was disrupted on at least six railway lines and some main roads in Belgium and many areas had no power, including half of the country's largest province, Luxembourg.

Gale-force winds, peaking at 180 kilometres (112 miles) per hour, buffeted western and northern Austria and claimed that country's first victim yesterday, a 26-year-old brewery worker whose car was hit by a falling tree, police said.

Hardest hit were Austria's westernmost province of Vorarlberg and the Motorbahn leading from Vienna to Salzburg, where the storm left a trail of uprooted trees, "downed power lines, flooded homes and disrupted traffic." High winds in the Dolomite mountains near the Italian-Austrian border uprooted 300 trees and blew the roofs off several houses in the Alto Adige region. Traffic over the Brenner Pass between Italy and Austria was slowed but not stopped.

Barry: No plan to resign

WASHINGTON, March 2, (Kuna): Embattled Washington Mayor Marion Barry, charged with serious charges of lying to a federal grand jury and using cocaine, says he has no plans to resign.

Barry Wednesday pleaded innocent to a total of three felony and two misdemeanor charges. The judge scheduled him for trial on June 4.

It was the controversial mayor's first appearance here since his arrest in January in a police "net-up" operation. He has since been in drug and alcohol counselling in Florida and South Carolina.

Barry's lawyer, Kenneth Mundy, said the mayor would have no statements because "there is nothing for him to say." But he added there were no plans for him to resign.

Mundy said Barry would not "plea bargain" with prosecutors to get his charges reduced, electing not to plead guilty to minor charges to get the most serious ones dismissed.

He said — despite hidden police cameras showing Barry using cocaine — that "we are anticipating winning the trial."



Comaneci in Montreal

Nadia Comaneci gets a bouquet of flowers on her arrival in Montreal on Feb 8. The Romanian gymnast caused a sensation at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and is rumoured to be with officials about working here. At right is Constantin Panait. (Reuters wirephoto)

NZ town takes Hilary to heart

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, March 2, (AP): A 7-year-old girl caught in an international custody battle has captured the hearts of people in Christchurch.

They've reacted to Hilary Forreth's plight — she has a lawyer, a psychiatrist and two names — with the protectiveness of an oversized country town.

Hilary, of Ellen Morgan as she is known to schoolmates here, now is the best-known child in New Zealand and has become a major news story in the United States.

When her maternal grandparents ran away to Christchurch to harbour the child from her father, who is accused of abusing her, they chose an apt sanctuary.

Not only does New Zealand's revamped family law system aim to act in the best interests of the child at all times, so do the people of Christchurch.

Hilary's mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, sent the child off with her parents after a Washington DC judge ruled that the girl's father could have unsupervised visits with Hilary.

Dr Morgan has accused her estranged husband, Eric Forreth, of sexually abusing the child, a charge Forreth denies. She went to jail for 25 months rather than reveal the child's whereabouts.

Forreth, a dentist from Falls Church, Virginia, spent more than two years trying to locate his daughter. His efforts finally paid off when private investigators tracked down the girl last month.

He arrived in Christchurch yesterday but, at the local family court's request, won't see Hilary. He says he wants to see his daughter, but will abide by the court's temporary injunction.

Hilary reportedly has not seen either parent for two years. Her mother was released from jail last fall after Congress passed a law allowing for her that limited imprisonment for civil contempt in the district of Columbia to a year.

Even though Hilary's identity became known to her acquaintances in late 1989, when a television documentary on her parents' bitter custody battle was broadcast, the people of Christchurch were happy to keep the secret.

It was a secret that had previously been revealed only to Hilary's doctor and the headmistress of the exclusive private school she has attended since arriving in New Zealand in July 1988.

But it isn't often that they are called "animals," which is the way a frustrated member of the first lady's press staff recently referred to the pack of reporters who cover social events at the White House.

television appearance on American Cable News Network's "Sonya Live from LA" in which Gabor said Kramer used drugs and was gay. After that appearance, Kramer received letters questioning how a drug user could remain a police officer, Thomas said.

Another one of Kramer's lawyers, A. William Bartz Jr, told a news conference that the suit "is trying to send a message to people like Ms Gabor who have special and privileged access to the media."

The civil suit was at least the second time Kramer has sued a citizen who claimed the motorcycle officer treated him brusquely during an arrest.

Thomas referred to a Dec 6

\$10m suit slapped on Gabor

LOS ANGELES, March 2, (UPI): Zsa Zsa Gabor, whose brush with the law became the slap heard around the world, was slapped herself Thursday with a \$10 million slander suit by the Beverly Hills cop who dared to arrest her.

In his suit filed in Los Angeles superior court, officer Paul Kramer said the loquacious glamour queen, who was convicted last year of battery, has been on a "malicious and vindictive campaign to defame" him through her many radio and television appearances in which

she has commented on what she thinks about the officer.

Kramer said his "good reputation as an honest and conscientious public servant" is being damaged by Gabor's accusations that he uses cocaine and other drugs and is a homosexual.

said Richard Thomas, one of Kramer's lawyers.

The civil suit was at least the second time Kramer has sued a citizen who claimed the motorcycle officer treated him brusquely during an arrest.

Thomas referred to a Dec 6

television appearance on American Cable News Network's "Sonya Live from LA" in which Gabor said Kramer used drugs and was gay. After that appearance, Kramer received letters questioning how a drug user could remain a police officer, Thomas said.

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The rich bid fond farewell to Forbes

NEW YORK, March 2, (Reuters): Hell's Angels motorcycle riders mingled with the rich and famous yesterday to pay a fond farewell to Malcolm Forbes, the millionaire publisher who proved that if money can't buy happiness it can at least purchase a good time.

Forbes, who died on Saturday at 79, loved a good time, from lavish parties to racing motorcycles to riding in hot air balloons, and his memorial service at a posh New York church had a festive rather than funeral air.

Former president Richard Nixon was among the 2,000 people attending. He sat in the front row right next to Forbes' good friend, actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Among other celebrities were Chrysler Corp chairman Lee Iacocca, publishing magnate Rupert Murdoch, banker David Rockefeller, New York Mayor David Dinkins, former mayor Edward Koch, comedian Joan Rivers, and designer Calvin Klein.

Also attending were the city's major gossip columnists, for whom Forbes was a valued friend as well as hot copy.

Paired outside the church was Forbes' red, tan and black Harley-Davidson, an American flag on one handlebar and the flag of Forbes' beloved Scotland on the other.

Forbes, the son of Scots immigrants, used to boast that he earned his millions the hard way, "pelled in the r-i-t-a-n-c-e."

By the time Forbes magazine came into one of America's major business magazines.

In a eulogy, Forbes' son Robert broke down as he said, "It has been a hell of a party. Thanks for the trip."

Forbes' most famous party was that million birthday bash his children threw him last year in Morocco.

About 50 Hell's Angels attended the funeral, arriving on



Actress Elizabeth Taylor and former US president Richard Nixon sing a hymn based on Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' theme from his 9th symphony during the memorial service for the late billionaire Malcolm Forbes on March 1, in New York's St Bartholomew's Church. (Reuters wirephoto)

motorcycles. The rich arrived in limousines, the less well-to-do by cab and employees of Forbes magazine came by bus. Forbes' own helicopter pilots came — but the helicopter was nowhere to be seen.

Hundreds of ordinary New Yorkers came as well, jamming Park Avenue for the man who

liked to describe himself as capitalism's best friend.

The service opened with the playing of "Scotland the Brave" and ended with a lone bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace" as he led the recessional.

Forbes' ashes were flown on Monday to his private island in Fiji.

LAUGOLITA

General strike halts Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, March 2, (UPI): A nationwide general strike called by pro-democracy activists remained generally peaceful today, although two people were killed and five others were injured in a related traffic accident, authorities said.

The strike, marked by scattered incidents of rock-throwing and arson in the capital, shut down most shops and many schools in Kathmandu and two satellite communities.

The call for a nation-wide strike to end Nepal's 29-year-old ban on opposition political parties also affected to varying degrees at least eight other towns outside the Kathmandu valley, telephone reports reaching the capital said.

There were no new reports of retaliatory

violence involving police, although the government's hardline response to the movement, resulting in at least 12 deaths since Feb 18, led to more defections today from the official position.

Former prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, who led the partyless Panchayat system to a 54-46 per cent victory in a 1980 nation-wide referendum, called the government repression 'beastly'.

"The present political crisis has to be solved with understanding and politically," Thapa said in an interview with the weekly newspaper *Nepali Awaaj*.

"The government thinks that it can solve the problem with force and killings. This is a beastly attitude," he said.

Meanwhile, a meeting of pro-government

Panchayat cadres in the east Nepal town of Biratnagar called for the resignation of two parliament members, D.P. Adhikari and Umesh Jung Thapa, because they 'are inactive and aloof when the Panchayat system is being put into difficulty,' the official national news agency said.

Today's deaths occurred when a mini-bus and a fire brigade collided in the Nepalese capital as the fire brigade rushed to the city's outskirts to extinguish a fire in a car ablaze by agitators, officials said.

Two people were killed and five were injured in the accident, hospital and official national news agency sources said.

Some incidents of stone-throwing against buses and three-wheelers, as well as other cases of vehicles set fire, also were reported in Kath-

mandu.

Most shops in Kathmandu and the satellite towns of Patan and Bhaktapur were closed, while government offices, banks and drug stores remained open and traffic on streets was below normal.

Riot police, some of them armed, had patrolled the three towns since early morning. The government previously had confirmed 12 deaths since the pro-democracy movement was launched Feb 18, while opposition sources had placed the figure at 29.

"I congratulate the lovers of democracy for making today's peaceful nation-wide strike a grand success," said Radha Krishna Mainali, a member of the seven left-front parties supporting the movement led by the banned Nepali Congress Party.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Confession

Like many Afrikaners, Dirk Coetzee crossed his ballot for the far-right Conservative Party (CP) in last September's general election in South Africa.

Six months later, the ex-policeman and self-confessed member of a police death squad has joined the African National Congress (ANC), the 'once-banned' anti-apartheid movement, and thinks its freed leader Nelson Mandela is wonderful. 'I didn't want to vote leftwing,' Coetzee explained with a big grin in an interview with Reuters, well aware of the contrast between his past and present views. Coetzee is pictured in Lusaka. (reuter wirephoto)

Ivory Coast protests

ABIDJAN, March 2, (Reuters): Police lobbed tear-gas at high school pupils and beat civil servants in Ivory Coast today as protests launched two weeks ago by university students spread to workers.

Witnesses said some civil servants were beaten up by police as they left their offices in the city's modern centre. At least one woman was stripped virtually naked by police, they said. The protests began with demands for university reforms but spread to workers and civil servants vehemently opposed to austerity moves which could cut salaries as much as 40 per cent.

Jailed for life

LONDON, March 2, (AP): A Filipino who claimed to be an assassin for the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was jailed for life on Wednesday for burning two security guards to death at a London amusement arcade.

"I find it almost impossible to understand the workings of a mind as twisted and evil as yours," said Judge Sir Richard Rogers in sentencing Victor Castigador, 35, at the Old Bailey Court.

French support

PARIS, March 2, (Reuters): France's ruling Socialists have voiced cautious support for a wave of pro-democracy unrest sweeping through former French colonies in Africa.

Breaking official silence on demands for change in Francophone Africa, and contradicting conservative leader Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Michel Rocard said Paris would reward reforming states with economic aid.

Asian immigrants

BARI, Italy, March 2, (AP): After being ferried back and forth across the Mediterranean, illegal Asian immigrants were kept aboard a ferry in Bari on Wednesday while Italian and Greek authorities argued over which country should grant them entry.

Fifty-four immigrants from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India were stopped by Italian police on Feb 22 after arriving from Patras, Greece, on a motorboat. Italian port authorities then put them on a Cypriot ferry boat going to Patras the same day. But a few days later, Greek border officials sent the ferry with the 54 Asians back to Italy.

Indonesia gamblers

JAKARTA, March 2, (AP): The government is considering a move to discourage illegal gambling by exiling convicted gamblers to an island, a police official said yesterday.

Police spokesman Col Wren-powiro said police have discussed with Justice Minister Ismail Saleh a plan to exile at least 80 of the 618 people arrested in a police crackdown on gambling in seven provinces over the past two months.

Nigeria lynching

LAGOS, March 2, (Reuters): The governor of Lagos state has told citizens of the Nigerian capital to be on the alert, Give support to your neighbours who are being attacked. No pity should be shown to any robbers. Governor R. Rasaki was quoted as telling residents of the working class district of Agege yesterday.

ANC names Mandela as deputy president

US urged to maintain sanctions

LUSAKA, Zambia, March 2, (Agencies): The African National Congress today named Nelson Mandela as its deputy president, indicating he will play a leading role in possible negotiations with the South African government.

Capping a two-day meeting of its top policy-making board, the ANC also named two other long-time political detainees to the panel; and said it would move its headquarters to South Africa.

Mandela and senior ANC officials yesterday held talks with the architects of US congressional sanctions against South Africa and called on them to maintain punitive measures to push the white minority government to the negotiating table.

The ANC leaders also expressed concern over unconfirmed reports that a visit by US Vice-President Dan Quayle to Namibia to attend independence celebrations March 21 also might include a stop in South Africa. ANC foreign affairs secretary Thabo Mbeki said such a visit would be "ill-timed and premature."

In an extraordinary hour-long session, 10 congressmen faced Mandela and the 35-member executive body of the ANC in a Lusaka convention centre, asking the movement's leaders what course they believed US policy should take in the wake of President Frederik de Klerk's bold racial reform measures, at ending the country's protracted racial conflict.

The post of deputy president is a new position in the ANC hierarchy. The current president, Oliver Tambo, is recovering from a stroke at a clinic in Sweden. An ANC official in Stockholm said Tambo had "recovered very well" and would return to Zambia after Mandela's visit.

"We don't doubt that he will be able to resume his duties as the president of the ANC," David Kgabang said of Tambo, "although age obviously has caught up with him."

"I am prepared to serve in any role the national executive instructs me to fill," Mandela said.

The ANC's 35-member national executive committee also re-affirmed its intention to meet soon with South African President F.W. de Klerk to clear obstacles to full-scale negotiations.

Burma defends poll ordinance: help not hurdle

RANGOON, March 2, (UPI): A Burmese government spokesman said yesterday that the seemingly restrictive provisions of the recently issued election ordinance are meant not to hinder but to help political parties and candidates in their campaigns.

The US State Department has criticised the new ordinance as a further sign that the elections are not likely to be free and fair. Other restrictive aspects of Burma's US has criticised are total government control of the media and the arrest or confinement to house arrest of leading opposition politicians Aung San Su Gyi, U Tin, Oo and U Nu.

The Feb 23 ordinance provides that political parties and candidates must apply for permits to hold and address campaign meetings at least seven days in advance, they must avoid making inflammatory or seditious speeches and they must confine the meetings to the place and time stipulated in the permit.

For those coming to or returning from these meetings, the ordinance requires that they must not shout slogans or form themselves into processions.

Tens of thousands of Burmese have been forcibly evicted from their homes in the past year and resettled in malaria-ridden areas with no water or electricity supplies, diplomats said on Thursday.

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Mandela (right) jokes with Ntso at the start of Lusaka talks. (Reuters)

But it reiterated that formal negotiations could not start until the government lifted the 17-year-old state of emergency and released all political prisoners.

"Mandela told reporters he was optimistic about a political settlement but unwilling to set any time frame for negotiations or the return of exiles."

"We are already making progress. There is no reason we should not be able to make further progress," he said. "We are surprised if we don't see progress in removing the obstacles (to negotiations)."

He again refused to say

from the ANC's commitment to violence, although the guerrilla campaign has been virtually inactive for the past two years.

"If the government gives us the opportunity, we will move away from confrontation... but it is up to the government to decide," he said.

Mandela said the ANC welcomed De Klerk's reforms and sought to negotiate on equal footing with the governing National Party.

"As long as political prisoners are not released and the state of emergency is not lifted in its entirety, we are not on equal terms," he said.

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Sikhs blast 2 Indian trains

CHANDIGARH, India, March 2, (UPI): A bomb blast ripped through an express train sleeping car, killing one person and wounding 38 others in the second attack of its kind in one day by suspected Sikh separatists, police and railway officials said today.

The latest explosion occurred about 10:35 pm yesterday aboard the Shalimar Express during a stop in the station of Ambala, an industrial city in northern Haryana state, located on the border with Punjab, 110 miles north of New Delhi.

A railway official reached by telephone in Ambala said the blast tore through a sleeper car, demolishing much of it. One person was killed and at least 38 others wounded, said the railway official and a police official in the joint Haryana-Punjab capital of Chandigarh.

The railway official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the train resumed its journey from New Delhi to Jammu, the winter capital of northern Jammu and Kashmir state, after a one-hour delay during which the damaged car was detached.

The police official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bomb was a timed device that would have exploded as the train approached the Punjab town of Ludhiana but its departure from New Delhi was delayed for an hour.

He said the Ambala blast and an explosion aboard a train about 2:20 am yesterday in Meerut, 30 miles northeast of New Delhi in Uttar Pradesh state, were both believed to be the work of the Babbar Khalsa, one of the main underground groups of Sikh extremists fighting for independence for Punjab.

At least five people died and 16 others were wounded in the explosion in Meerut aboard the Chhattisgarh Express.

4 Indians die in MiG crash

NEW DELHI, March 2, (Reuters): An Indian air force MiG plane crashed on a highway near New Delhi yesterday killing four people and injuring eight others, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency did not say what type of MiG it was but said all four victims were on the ground. The pilot escaped unhurt.

PTI said some vehicles on the highway were damaged when the plane crashed on a test flight near the army town of Meerut 80 km (50 miles) from the Indian capital.

China yesterday stepped up threats of retaliation to Britain's decision to grant full citizenship to 225,000 Hong Kong residents, strongly hinting it may not honour foreign passports issued to Hong Kong people after 1984.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing repeated China's earlier condemnation of the British decision to gradually grant full citizenship, including the right to live in Britain, to up to 225,000 of Hong Kong's nearly six million people.

French officials have decided to provide "post-dated visas" to permit Chinese residents in Hong Kong working for French companies to obtain French residency, a Foreign Ministry source said.

Drawn by the plight of Vietnamese boat people languishing in Hong Kong detention centres, Americans Thomas and Quyen Pfeiffer arrived in the British colony hoping to be of help.

Seven months later, the embittered husband and wife have packed their bags and fly out this weekend.

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Women blast male Japanese cabinet

TOKYO, March 2, (UPI): Women leaders criticised Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu yesterday for selecting an all-male cabinet and undercutting Japan's blossoming women's liberation movement.

Japanese women were euphoric last summer over their success at bringing down the then prime minister Sosuke Uno for his alleged affair with a geisha, ousting the male-dominated ruling party from the upper house of Parliament, electing 10 new women members of parliament and getting two women appointed to the same cabinet for the first time in history.

Takako Doi, the charismatic chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party and a symbol of the emergence of woman power, said at the time "a mountain has moved," but several women leaders interviewed yesterday said it feels as though the mountain is moving back.

Kaifu dropped his two women cabinet members Wednesday. On Feb 18, the all-male slate of Liberal Democratic Party candidates won a solid majority in the powerful lower house of the parliament.

And women now expect a politician accused of having an extramarital affair will be forgiven.

"Women are giving up hope," said author Mikiko Taga, whose book on sexual harassment first introduced the concept to Japan last year.

Taga said she felt like crying when she heard recently the word she heard coined, "seku-hara," meaning sexual harassment, was now the name for several Tokyo bars where hostesses in miniskirts sit behind desks in an office-like atmosphere and let male customers fondle them.



Defected Vietnamese soldier Nguyen Yang Minh shows reporters his tattoo during an interview in Boeung Trakuan. Minh and Pau Long Hip (left) defected to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front last week. (Rauter wirephoto)

Khmer to give peace a chance

JAKARTA, March 2, (AP): Blamed for holding up a settlement of the Cambodian war, a leader of the communist Khmer Rouge insisted yesterday that he came "to give peace a chance."

Khmer Rouge vice-president Khieu Samphan blamed Vietnam for the continuing war in his country and the inconclusive results of the latest round of peace talks. The conference ended early yesterday without issuing a joint communiqué because the participants could not agree unanimously on its text.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Premier Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh government installed by Vietnam said earlier that a big obstacle was Khieu Samphan's refusal to accept the word "genocide" in referring to his group's methods while in power.

The Khmer Rouge is viewed with dread by the other factions involved in the Cambodian war because during its rule hundreds of thousands of people were executed or died of malnutrition.

It is most likely Zhang Zhenhai will be executed as well as subjected to torture and inhuman treatment if he is extradited to China, said Makoto Kondo, one of five Japanese lawyers who have volunteered to defend Zhang.

The lawyers said the Japanese government has already decided to return Zhang even though his court appeals have not been exhausted.

Zhang, 36, along with his wife and son, hijacked an Air China Boeing 747 with 223 people aboard Dec 16 and commandeered it to Fukuoka airport in southern Japan.

The hijacking ended when a member of the Air China crew pushed Zhang from an open door to the tarmac. Zhang broke his pelvis and both legs and was hospitalised while his wife and son were returned to China within hours.

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Dissolve USSR, urges Walesa

GDANSK, Poland, March 2. (UPI): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa yesterday urged Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to dissolve the Soviet Union, and criticised Moscow for incompetent handling of the issue of Germany's re-unification.

"If I were in Gorbachev's place, I would dissolve the Soviet Union as soon as possible," Walesa told the reporters at a news conference.

The trade union leader said the dissolu-

tion would not mean the disappearance of the Soviet Union, and it could re-emerge as a new union of nations based on the solid democratic foundation.

There is no way such an (old) structure based on captivity, on scaring people and on force, could continue in the 21st century," he said.

Walesa also lashed out at Moscow for not giving enough support to Polish anti-

unification. The four — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — have agreed to consult with the two — East and West Germany — on unification.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has insisted that Poland be allowed to join the four World War II allies in the talks, arguing Poland was the first European country invaded by Hitler's Nazi Army, in 1939, and lost millions of citizens and soldiers to the Germans in World War II.

Britain and the Soviet Union have supported Poland's request, but Walesa hinted Moscow has not been active enough to ensure a place at the negotiating table for Poland, a Warsaw Pact ally of Moscow.

"What sort of friendship is this? Walesa asked.

Walesa said Poland had been barred from the 1945 Yalta Conference, at which the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union decided its borders in the months before the end of World War II in Europe.

Bonn fears war damage

BONN, March 2. (Reuters): West Germany linked the theory of guaranteeing Poland's western borders today to war reparations Warsaw might demand from a unified Germany.

Stung by a French call for an immediate German guarantee of the Polish border, Bonn said Chancellor Helmut Kohl had already proposed that the two German parliaments would make such a resolution after East Germany's election on March 18.

Raising the stakes, government spokesman Dieter Vogel added that such a joint German resolution must state an assumption that Warsaw would not renege on a 1953 declaration in which it apparently renounced its right to war reparations.

The West German linkage came as international pressure was increasing on Bonn to reassure Warsaw on the border issue.

The German parliament, in assessing Kohl's border, should also request that last November's joint statement by Kohl and Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki on the rights of ethnic Germans in Poland be turned into a treaty, Vogel said.

"Such a resolution by the freely elected German parliaments should form the basis of a treaty between a unified German government and the Polish government and be ratified by a joint German parliament," Vogel said.

It was one of the clearest, most blunt statements yet by the Kohl government on Poland's insistence on a secure western border.

Poland was awarded large parts of pre-war German territory by the victorious World War Two allies in 1945. Lingering uncertainty over its western frontier — caused by Kohl's refusal to commit himself — has become the most controversial issue on the path to German unity.

The linkage between the border and war reparations was promptly condemned by the environmental Greens Party.

"In order to recognise Poland's border Kohl wants Poland to forego war reparations," Greens spokeswoman Antje Wollmer said. "Poland suffered like no other country in Europe from the war machinery of German fascism."

Kohl, facing a right-wing challenge in West German elections in December, is sticking to a legalistic view that only a unified Germany can formally guarantee Poland's western borders. In doing so, he is wooing right-wing voters, including Germans expelled after the war from the lands incorporated into Poland.

Kohl said yesterday he opposed Warsaw's proposal for both Germany to draw up a provisional border treaty renouncing claims to former German lands ceded to Poland.

Under mounting pressure from at home and abroad, he made a concession, however, in backing a joint border resolution by both states. But he said it would have to be based on a West German parliamentary resolution from last November 8 which said Germany had no claims on Polish territory.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on a one-day visit to West Berlin yesterday declared France's backing for Poland's demands to join six-power talks on safeguarding the interests of neighbouring states during German unification. Dumas also demanded an early border treaty between Bonn and Warsaw.

Gorby might accept Baltic independence

Policy still evolving: US officials

WASHINGTON, March 2. (Reuters): US officials believe that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could accept independence for the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia if certain conditions are met.

"Gorbachev's policy is still evolving. I don't think we've seen his bottom line on the Baltics yet," said one State Department official.

In the latest move towards independence from Moscow, which annexed the three Baltic states as Soviet republics at the outset of World War Two, Lithuanian candidates backed by the pro-independence Sajudis movement took 72 or 90 parliamentary seats last weekend in the Soviet Union's first free elections in more than 70 years.

Communists won 29 seats but 22 of their representatives also supported independence while only seven backed the Moscow Soviet Communist Party.

US officials and analysts say Gorbachev has three crucial interests at stake in the Baltic republics, none of which rule out independence.

"The three essentials are preserving Soviet security, preserving a peaceful evolution and producing some economic benefit to Moscow," summarised the State Department official.

The United States never recognised the absorption of the Baltic republics into the Soviet Union in 1940 after a deal between Moscow and Nazi Germany which snuffed out their 20 years of independence.

In their analysis of possible paths to Baltic independence, US officials are increasingly focusing on the example of fellow Baltic state Finland, which has maintained independence by adopting strict political neutrality and accepting certain Soviet-dictated limitations on its foreign policy.

Finland, US officials note, poses no security threat to the Soviet Union and has been of considerable economic benefit to Moscow's main foreign trading partner.

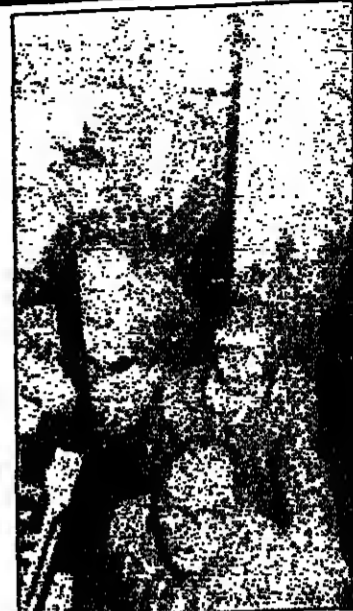
In the case of the Baltics, something more than neutrality might be required, US officials said. "This will be the subject of intense negotiation. Some other compromise might be necessary, like Baltic membership of the Warsaw Pact if that makes the Soviets feel better," said one official.

Lithuania holds runoff elections for the re-naming 45 seats of its Supreme Soviet on March 10 while Latvia and Estonia hold their own elections on March 18. US officials expect the pace to accelerate quickly after that.

Lithuanian-American emigre groups, who say they represent around one million US citizens with Lithuanian ancestry, say they expect the newly-elected assembly to move quickly on independence after March 10.

Meanwhile, top Lithuanian and Estonian officials met to coordinate their efforts for independence from Moscow, while Latvia joined growing Baltic defiance of Soviet control.

New radical measures to tackle growing social unrest and economic shortages in the Soviet Union will be unveiled within the new few days, a senior planning official said in Moscow today.



Some 21 men accused of ordering troops to open fire on demonstrators in Timisoara go on trial. Major General Emil Macri (bottom right) was the former chief of state security's economic counter-intelligence.

Court hears grim tales of Timisoara massacres

TIMISOARA, Romania, March 2. (Reuters): A Romanian court was told today how secret police tried to eliminate all traces of 40 protesters they had killed by stealing the bodies from hospital, cremating them, and tipping their ashes down a drain.

The details were given on the first day of the trial of 21 Securitate secret police officers, senior police officials and two Bucharest cemetery supervisors in this Transylvanian city, birthplace of the revolution, which swept the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu from power last December.

Official figures released at today's hearing revealed that 94 people died in Timisoara during pro-democracy demonstrations, 300 others were badly wounded and 23 people had disappeared.

Held under tight security at Timisoara's youth hall, the 21 defendants were led into the dock wearing distinctive beige and brown striped convicts' uniforms, their heads shaved.

They were booed and jeered by a small crowd as they arrived in a police van flanked by armoured cars. The courthouse was ringed by armoured personnel carriers and about 100 soldiers.

The most senior Securitate officer on trial is General Emil Macri, head of the security police's counter-intelligence department. He was sent from Bucharest to Timisoara by Ceausescu to put down pro-democracy demonstrations, said military prosecutor Mihai Radulescu.

The 21 face charges of complicity in genocide, assisting in genocide and all face maximum terms of life imprisonment if found guilty by the three-man military tribunal.

Reports that thousands of people had been killed by the Securitate in Timisoara in mid-December spread around the country, triggering the revolution.

The initial figures were grossly exaggerated, but there were gasps in court today as prosecutors described how the bodies of 40 demonstrators had been disposed of.

On the night of December 18 the deputy chief of the Securitate for Timisoara, Major Ioan Corbodeanu, acting under Macri's orders, went to Timisoara district hospital, where the bodies of protesters shot 24 hours earlier were being kept, Radulescu told the court.



Soviet elections

Three days before elections in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Byelorussia, Soviet voters showed far more concern on Friday with living standards and shortages than political change.

An opinion poll carried out by the Communist Party daily Pravda said 41 per cent of surveyed voters thought raising living standards was a main priority while only 10 per cent called participation in political decisions important.

Fifty-four per cent considered that "improving living standards in society" was a major priority, while only 31 per cent put the same emphasis on "openness and free speech".

Picture shows a father and his daughter look at election posters in central Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Maggie faces crisis over new unpopular property tax

LONDON, March 2. (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, plummeting in opinion polls, faced a crisis yesterday over her controversial property tax reform.

Aimed at bringing home the costs of Social Insurance, the so-called "poll tax" has backfired in Thatcher's own Conservative Party heartlands, and she is getting the blame.

In late exchanges in the House of Commons yesterday, Socialist Labour Party legislators jibed that Thatcher is "running out of both friends and excuses." She retorted the new tax was "a very much fairer system."

But rank-and-file legislators acknowledged that the party is in deep trouble over the tax, known officially as the community

charge, and warned it would likely cost the next election in 1991 or 1992.

Thatcher's embattled Environment Secretary Chris Patten, in charge of the tax, said local authorities were setting an average charge of around £370 (£620) a person — sharply higher than the £278 (£473) government target.

Accusing local councils of cynically using the new system as an excuse to build up reserves while blaming the government for the high charges, Patten said, "Nothing could justify behaviour like this."

On Wednesday night, 18 of the 25 Conservative Party councilors on the west Oxford district council resigned from the party to become independents. The Conservatives

automatically lost control of the traditional Tory area near the ancient university city.

The rebels complained that after years of following Thatcher's strictures on thrift they were forced to set a poll tax of £412 (£700) a person, instead of a planned £253 (£430). The tax starts this fiscal year.

"This came as the final straw," said council chairman Margaret Frost. "We are people who have been on the political scene for some time — hard-working, going along with policies, trying to make them work when they patently aren't working."

The new tax replaces a single property tax levied on the owner of a house or apartment on the basis of the value of the property.



Anniversary of genocide

A woman carrying a picture of her dead relative takes part in a procession to mark the second anniversary of the genocide victims. Hundreds of Yarevan residents took part in the procession to the monument for the genocide victims. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Novello succeeds Koop: Dr. Antonio Coello Novello was confirmed by the Senate Thursday night as surgeon general, the first woman and first Hispanic to hold the post.

The action came on a voice vote without debate. She succeeds C. Everett Koop, who stepped down in December, in the nation's top health post. The Surgeon General is the head of the US Public Health Service. (AP)

Pan Am security was relaxed: Nine months before the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, the airline abandoned a key safety procedure at Frankfurt airport requiring all checked baggage to be accompanied by passengers, the Independent reported Thursday.

The London newspaper said investigators now believe the relaxation in security gave terrorists the opportunity to smuggle the bomb onto the plane in an unaccompanied suitcase. (AP)

Lacalle sworn in: Luis Alberto Lacalle took the presidential oath Thursday in Montevideo, Uruguay, inheriting an economic and political crisis that has already prompted him to make political concessions to his rival party.

Lacalle named four members of the Colorado Party, the leading opposition, to cabinet posts, calling it a "cabinet of coalition" that he hopes will give him the political clout to pass tough economic austerity measures to rein in high inflation. (UPI)

New secrets law in force: A new official secrets act came into force in Britain on Thursday, praised by the government as an improvement on the old one but denounced by critics as an assault on the public's right to know.

The original 1911 act, passed hastily during a German spy scare, gave Britain the reputation of being among the most secretive of the Western democracies. The old act contained 2,000 ways of charging someone with the unauthorised disclosure of official information, however trivial, such as the number of cups of tea served in a government cafeteria. (AP)

Albania makes rare statement: Albania in a rare intervention at the UN commission on human rights Thursday in Geneva rejected Yugoslav charges it is inciting an independence uprising in the Albanian ethnic province of Kosovo.

The charge was made by Yugoslavia on Tuesday at the commission's current 46th annual session. (UPI)

Rushdie may be mad: The Islamic Party of Britain has urged suspension of the death sentence against Salman Rushdie on the grounds that he may have had a mental breakdown while writing the Satanic Verses.

A spokesman for the new party was quoted by the British media as saying that several psychiatrists had been approached to analyse the allegations, which if found to be true, would free the writer from the punishment because of his condition. (Kuna)

Castro told to leave peacefully: Cuban President Fidel Castro should relinquish power and go into exile to spare his country any violent change as in Romania, US human rights delegate Armando Valladares said Thursday.

"No-one wants something like Romania to happen again," Valladares said. "We want Castro to leave Cuba peacefully." (UPI)

Comoros go to the polls: The Comoro Islands go to the polls again on Sunday in a re-run of presidential elections which collapsed in chaos two weeks ago amid charges of government ballot rigging.

This time round, the small impoverished Indian Ocean archipelago with a population of around 400,000 is better prepared, says the government of interim president Said Mohamed Djohar. (Reuters)

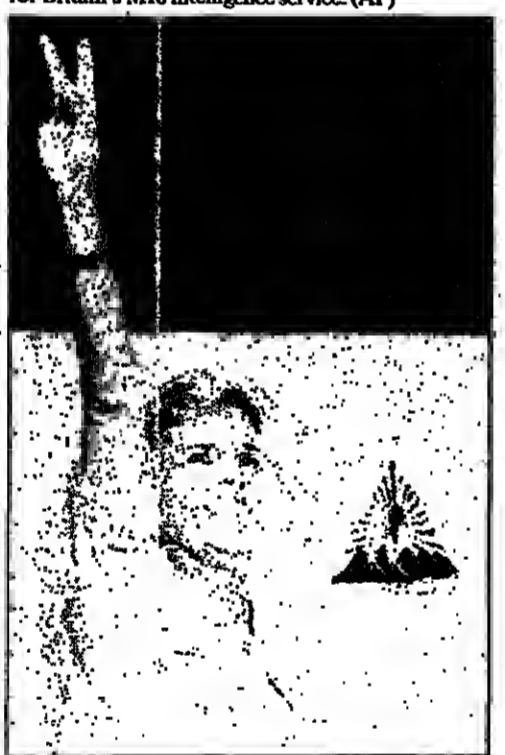
Pope kneels to receive ashes: As a French cardinal dabbed ashes on his forehead, Pope John Paul II on Wednesday marked the start of Lent, the Roman Catholic Church's solemn period of reflection and penance before Easter.

Wearing a purple velvet chasuble and a gold mitre, the Pope knelt before Cardinal Gabriel-Marie Garrone to receive the symbol of Lent during an Ash Wednesday service in a 5th-century church on Rome's Aventine Hill. The Pope led a procession from a Benedictine Monastery to St. Sabina's church for the ceremony. (AP)

UK spy Wynne is dead: Greville Wynne, a British spy who told in his celebrated memoirs how he pried loose some of Moscow's best-kept secrets and who served 18 months in a Soviet prison for espionage, has died. He was 71.

Wynne died of throat cancer in London's Cromwell Hospital on Wednesday, the British Domestic News Agency Press Association reported. It quoted unidentified close friends.

The wealthy businessman, who wrote "The Man from Moscow" and "The Man from Odessa," worked for Britain's MI6 intelligence service. (AP)



Troops deserting

Draftees in the Sandinista-controlled army are deserting their ranks and the military is reportedly hiding arms ahead of next month's swearing in of an opposition government.

Sandinista officials on Thursday acknowledged the desertions but denied weapons and ammunition were being hoarded.

President Daniel Ortega also called on the United States to resume aid on the day he steps down to the opposition coalition that upsets his leftist party in Sunday's election.

President George Bush's administration is starting from scratch in devising a US aid plan for Nicaragua because it did not expect opposition presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to win, a senior official says.

Picture shows Chamorro flashing a victory sign in front of a Nicaraguan flag and seal during a press conference.

US halts regular German border patrol

HEIDELBERG, West Germany, March 2. (Agencies): The US army has halted regular patrols along West Germany's borders with East Germany and Czechoslovakia, a spokeswoman at the army's European headquarters said today.

She said although the regular patrols have been stopped, some will take place from time to time. The army's border bases will be retained for training purposes, the spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman added that observation posts, the points where US soldiers kept track of

their adversaries on the other side, "will now only be occupied periodically for training, rather than full time."

Sgt. Elaine Venema said the change took effect yesterday, but added that "security reasons" prevented her from specifying the numbers of patrols involved in the reductions.

She emphasised that despite the change, the number of troops in the area and the size of individual patrols would remain the same.

The US military newspaper Stars and Stripes, which reported

the shift this morning, said it was the first halt to "regular patrols" in the border area since the war ended in 1945.

"What you see here is that we recognise the reality of the political situation in Europe," the newspaper quoted Maj. Samuel Taylor, a spokesman for the army's 5th corps, as saying.

Stars and Stripes said the 11th armoured cavalry regiment, one of the two US army units responsible for the patrols, had pulled all its tracked vehicles away from the East-West border in its sector.

Global Aids total 222,740

GENEVA, March 2. (UPI): Global Aids rose by 7,396 reported cases or 3.33 per cent in February to a known total of 222,740, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said today.

It said the United States, with 121,645 cases or 54.6 per cent of the world total, accounted for 3,864 or almost half of the newly reported cases as of Feb 28.

WHO figures are cumulative dating back to 1980 and officials said at least half of known cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome have so far resulted in death.

The UN health agency's special Aids division also reiterated that actual cases are estimated at two to three times the known total because of poor and late reporting by many African and other developing countries.

Uganda and Kenya, with the fourth and fifth highest number of cases worldwide, for instance, last reported to WHO in April and June of 1989 respectively so their figures are badly outdated, officials pointed out.

Eight-placed Zaire last reported more than one year ago, on Dec 30, 1988, while Malawi went all the way back to June, 1988.

World drugs production at all-time high

WASHINGTON, March 2. (Reuters): World-wide narcotics production reached record levels last year, and corruption in some nations hampered efforts to stop major drug dealers, the US State Department reported yesterday.

"Opium and coca production increased, narcotics trafficking increased, and corruption and programme ineffectiveness eroded potential gains against international drug trafficking organisations," the report said.

President George Bush has said he gives the war against drugs his priority and last month attended a one-day drug summit in Colombia with the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

Acknowledging that the United States is the

world's largest market for illegal drugs, the report noted that high production had spurred traffickers to expand their territory into other nations.

"It is in the US interest to focus its attention on both supply and demand world-wide and to keep clearly in mind that rising demand in other countries can undermine our co-operative effort to reduce the production and distribution of illegal drugs."

Good growing conditions spurred production of opium in Burma and Guatemala, the report said, while "flagging political will and corruption" hampered drug prevention in Bolivia, Thailand, Laos, Syria and the Bahamas.

Baker backs Israel aid cut

WASHINGTON, March 2, (Kuna): US Secretary of State James Baker indicated clearly yesterday that the Bush administration would not be opposed to cuts in aid to Israel and Egypt.

In an appearance before the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee on Capitol Hill, Baker also said that the administration is still insisting on receiving some assurances from Israel that it will not engage in any new additional settlement

activity before it can receive some funding for the housing of Soviet Jews who emigrate to Israel.

It was the first time Baker has personally and officially welcomed a cut in aid to Israel and Egypt since the Senate minority leader Bob Dole came out with a proposal for a five per cent cut in aid to major recipients of American aid in order to allow the administration to fund aid to East European democracies and to Panama, among others.

"We are willing to stand up and be counted on such a cut in aid if congress allowed the administration more flexibility to use the limited money where it is most needed," Baker said.

He added that administration support would "depend on whether we do it in a non-discriminatory manner."

Baker explained that in his recent travels in the Middle East, he has not found any significant reduction in the threat to peace, but he added, "at the same time, we must

find a way to respond to changes in Eastern Europe, in Panama, and in Nicaragua."

Out of the total of \$10 billion for bilateral aid, the US is giving Israel this year a total of \$3 billion and to Egypt \$2.1 billion.

Baker was also questioned during the hearing about a bill currently circulating in Congress that will increase American funding for housing facilities for Soviet Jewish emigrants going to Israel.

17 perish in Cairo Sheraton blaze

(Continued from Page 1)

hanging from top floor windows in the pre-dawn darkness as 30-foot (nine-metre) flames swept towards them. Several guests tied sheets together in an effort to slide to the ground.

Three Americans, including US pilot Patrick Nelson were among the injured. Nelson broke his foot leaping from a window.

An unnamed German broke his back after jumping from the fifth floor of the six-storey block.

Eleven Egyptians, six French, three Russians, a Mexican journalist of Lebanese origin, a Danish woman, a female Finnish teacher and an Iraqi were also among those treated for burns, cuts, broken bones and smoke inhalation.

Regional radio and news agencies said a Greek hostess with the national airline Olympic Airways, Elena Gorgorioti, was also missing.

A fire department officer accused hotel officials of ignoring his warnings to remove guests from the Sheraton lobby that had been engulfed in flames.

Survivors of the fire said there was no water sprinkler system and no audible fire alarm in the hotel.

"It was worse than the landing in Normandy during the Second World War," said Robert Louis Tooley, 72, from Battle Creek, Michigan.

Tooley said he landed on the Normandy beaches four days after D-Day in 1944. "There, we were attacked and could fight back," he said.

"At this fire, there was nothing to fight back," he said.

Delphine Thip, 15, of Paris, told how she and her parents, trapped in their third-floor room, tied their bedsheets together and wriggled to safety. They were burnt and were taken to a nearby hospital.

"We looked from the window and there were the flames so close by. There was no time to get out," she said.

The corridors were full of smoke and so we had our sheets together and made our way down."

Another Panamanian, Mustafa Moshi, 52, complained that no fire alarm sounded and the modern 630-room hotel did not even have sprinklers.

Khartoum frees UK journalist

KHARTOUM, March 2, (UPI): Sudan yesterday released British journalist Julian O'Zanne, held without explanation in a Khartoum jail for nine days, the official Sudanese News Agency reported.

But the Islamic country's relations with Western news media took a further bad turn as the government denounced the British international news agency Reuters for disseminating what it called "fabricated news" about Sudan.

O'Zanne, 25, was arrested Feb 21 in the Sudanese capital and no explanation was at first given for his detention. The authorities releasing him said he was found in possession of documents not related to journalism.



Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein (left) and Labour Party legislator Binyamin Netanyahu (right) during a meeting of some 100 Jews and Arabs in the Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya's central bus station, it said. (Reuters)

US wants positive Israeli response

WASHINGTON, March 2, (Agencies): Secretary of State James Baker yesterday stepped up pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to advance Middle East peace, saying the United States had done all it could and now needed a positive response from Israel.

"We're coming very close to the time when we will know one way or the other whether we're going to have a chance of succeeding," Baker told a House of Representatives subcommittee on foreign operations.

"We've really done pretty much all we can do, we think, from our end and we are awaiting a response from the Israeli government," he said.

The comment — the strongest yet from Baker in 10 months of Middle East peace mediation — came on the eve of a key meeting of Israel's forum of four top ministers.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is under strong pressure from rightists in his Likud Party not to accept the US peace package. But the dovish Labour Party is threatening to leave the government if he rejects it.

Baker's statement was the clearest sign yet that Washington was not prepared to further refine its proposals to meet Israeli concerns and that it would squarely blame Israel if the process broke down.

Shamir promised an early decision about whether he would accept US proposals for talks with Palestinians.

Shamir would not indicate what his decision would be and declined to answer when asked if he was rejecting US pressure to convene the unprecedented talks.

"I cannot say that," he told Israeli radio. "I don't know if there is a pressure but we will have to take decisions in the next few days or weeks."

Shamir, under pressure from Likud Bloc Hawks, hardened his stance on US proposals for convening peace talks with a Palestinian delegation.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Shamir ruled out participation of Arabs from East Jerusalem in the process and said there was no need for two exiled Palestinians in a proposed 10-member negotiating team.

"Who needs them?" Shamir said of a reported compromise proposal to include two deported Palestinians to meet PLO conditions that the team include representatives from the nearly 3 million Palestinians who live outside Israeli-held territory.

Shamir said Israel's plan to hold Palestinian elections was not aimed at finding an ultimate solution but an interim self-rule scheme for the 1.7 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are not going to solve the problem of the Palestinian diaspora. It is not our task," he said.

Shamir, besieged by Israeli Hawks and Doves and the United States, has delayed until at least Sunday a meeting with his top three cabinet ministers on proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

"It will not be tomorrow," Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, said yesterday, referring to the meeting with Likud Party Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Labour leaders Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Pazner said Shamir wanted to delay the "forum of four" discussion of US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo until after he met ministers from his own rightist Likud on Saturday night.

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Najib ready to quit if peace guaranteed

Willing to free Arab prisoners

By Shaker Al Jouhari

AFGHAN President Najibullah, in an exclusive interview with the Arab Times said that he is willing to consider requests to free Arab prisoners or reduce their sentences if appeals are routed through known diplomatic channels.

The first step towards achieving peace, Najibullah said is to hold wide-ranging peace conferences with the participation of all peace-seeking and peace-supporting groups in the country. Such a conference would also include the election of a leading council to form a coalition government comprising all participants at the conference.

He went on to explain that the council will appoint a committee that will undertake the drawing up of a draft constitution and another to table a draft law for elections. In the interim six-month period, he said, a ceasefire will prevail.

The winning party would then undertake the formation of a new government for the country.

On the mechanics of the election process, the official said that to guarantee safe and free elections, the process should be conducted under an international patronage. He disclosed that contacts among leaders of armed opposition groups in the country had proved encouraging.

The Afghan leader pointed out that the government is grateful to all countries who played a positive role in speeding up the peace process of suspended issues in Afghanistan and that such appreciation had repeatedly been expressed by various officials. He commented that international organisations, specially the UN could play a significant role in this respect.

All Arab and Islamic countries have been contacted to contribute to the ongoing intra-Afghan dialogue and preparing the ground for ending the war and establishing a durable peace — stressing that Afghanistan has no quarrels with any of the neighbouring countries.

Commenting on mediation efforts made by PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat to release a US photographer arrested by Kabul government, Najibullah said that he positively responded to the mediation and the decision to release the photographer was taken also on humanitarian grounds.

Najibullah, criticised infiltration of Muslim Arab citizens into Afghanistan to fight side-by-side with the opposition armed groups. He categorically commented: "There are no laws in the world that permit



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and committed illegal subversive acts and will be brought to trial, the Afghan leader said. He disclosed that based on humanitarian principles and appeals from countries of these nationals, some of these spies and agents had been returned to their countries.

Those who are still in custody and have been requested to be set free by their respective countries will be processed accordingly, soon to be instituted measures by the Afghan government. Meanwhile, families of Arab citizens currently held in Afghanistan are welcome to visit their relatives and the government will provide all facilities.

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ending people from one country to intervene into the internal affairs of another government."

Najibullah said that the Pakistani intervention in Afghanistan is the result of the apparent strong influence of the military in that country, including its intelligence agencies and foreign pressures on the Pakistani government.

He added that the Republic of Afghanistan has never stood with one country against another and stressed that Afghanistan has always maintained friendly relations with all countries. He added: "According to our peaceful foreign policies we hope to establish mutual and friendly relations with all countries of the world."

He advocated the hope that others will not sacrifice their relations with Afghanistan to maintain particular stances with other countries."

He paid tribute to all efforts exerted by any Arab or Muslim agency to resolve the situation in Afghanistan and help establish peace among the warring groups. He said that government-sponsored peace measures are appropriate and would positively meet with the satisfaction of all concerned to reach a peaceful settlement.

Rockets kill 2 Rebels vote

ISLAMABAD, March 2, (Agencies): Rebels fired rockets into the Afghan capital, Kabul, yesterday, killing two people and wounding three, the state news agency Bakhtar said today.

Bakhtar, monitored in Islamabad, said the "elusive-type US-made ground-to-ground rockets" scattered tens of anti-personnel mines — in other developments, Afghan rebels began voting in controversial elections in the mujahideen-held Kunar province yesterday in defiance of the Pakistan-based rebel government.

Hundreds of mujahideen fighters were driven down from the hills in pickup trucks to Asadabad, capital of the eastern province, to vote for a 100-seat "shura" (council).

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Iran's new hate-word — 'de-Khomeinification'

NICOSIA, March 2, (Reuters): Furious debate over the legacy of Ayatollah Khomeini has given Iran's political clerics a new hate-word — "de-Khomeinification."

Headlines coined the term last weekend for Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, a leading moderate who spoke out in support of Khomeini's successor's freedom to update the late revolutionary leader's edicts to suit the present day.

Azari Qomi, a senior theology teacher and former Member of Parliament, rejects the label, but stuck to his position in a speech at Tehran University this week.

"Decrees which depend on circumstances can be changed by the new leader. This is not de-Khomeinification," he said, according to the newspaper Resalat.

Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, backs more liberal policies pursued by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government to rebuild Iran's economy after the eight-year war with Iraq.

He moved to silence the row yesterday with a speech to Revolutionary Guards saying unity was indispensable if Iran was to follow Khomeini's path.

"Refrain from discord in any shape. No one should do anything which may lead to divisions," he said.

He accused the West of spreading lies to rob Iranians of hope in their future. "Praise be to God, there are no deep or critical differences. Whatever there is, it is only superficial and not harmful," he said.

The new Farsi term of abuse is "Inam-zodaci" or de-Islamification, referring to Khomeini, who died last June, by his commonly-used title, Imam.

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Kuwaiti envoy among nine to win award at UN

Abulhassan's intellect, personality and skills admired

UNITED NATIONS, March 2. (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhassan was among the nine dignitaries Wednesday to win the 1989 diplomatic award for excellence in the United Nations community.

The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony hosted by Richard A. Holman, editor of the newspaper 'Diplomatic World Bulletin' which offers the awards every year.

"Ambassador Abulhassan is a distinguished diplomat who

exemplifies qualities of character that are widely acknowledged and admired," Holman said at the ceremony.

"A devout follower of his religion, the ambassador and his generous nation have played an important part in the development of a handsome mosque now adding a welcome new element to the architecture and culture of the Upper East Side," he said.

Abulhassan is chairman of the board of the Islamic Centre currently being built in New York, with Kuwait being the major

contributor to the project.

"The ambassador is known for his keen intellect, warm personality and, above all, for his diplomatic skills," Holman said.

In introducing Abulhassan, Holman called attention to the fact that the adoption a few years ago of Arabic as one of the official UN languages attests to the growing power of the Arab states in the world organisation.

The Arab states also play a major role in the non-aligned movement and the Islamic Conference, and are significant influence in world's politics and economics, he said.

Among the others recipients, which are picked from the various geographic regions, were Jan Eliasson, permanent representative of Sweden and Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special envoy for Iraq and Iran, and Aleksandr Belforogov, the permanent representative of the Soviet Union.

Kuwait rejects foreign bases

(Continued from Page 1)

leadership, during that historic session has announced readiness to shoulder full responsibilities for building comprehensive peace on basis of the proclamation of the independent state of Palestine, with the Holy Qods (Jerusalem) as its capital, and other international rights and obligations the proclamation entails.

"Israel must be pressured to stop its brutal crimes against the Palestinian people who are fighting for liberty and dignity. It should reciprocate current changes on international arena and heed logic of truth and justice," the Amir urged.

He affirmed that Israel could not swim for ever against the current of world's developments, nor could it afford to resist mountainous waves of those changes.

The Amir believed the proposed international Middle East peace conference, which received the support of most of world's countries, could be the legitimate framework for reaching a permanent and just settlement for the Palestinian question.

The Amir described the Kuwaiti-Soviet relations as strong and fraternal, characterised by mutual respect and based on the principles of international co-operation to fulfill interests of both countries.

He said strong links between Kuwait and the Soviet Union proved beyond doubt that countries with different political systems can establish fairly cordial ties based on common benefits and without undermining interests of both sides.

The Amir said the joint permanent Kuwaiti-Soviet Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation was trying to bolster bilateral co-operation, especially in oil, gas and investment sectors between two countries.

The Amir re-affirmed Kuwait's keenness on boosting trade exchange with the Soviet Union and noted that there were extensive potentials for co-operation between Kuwaiti and Soviet establishments to set up joint ventures.

Reviewing Kuwait's foreign policy firm and stable principles the Amir asserted that Kuwait fully adheres to the Non-Aligned Movement's principles, stays away from international conflicts and foreign alliances, and rejects building foreign military bases on territories of other countries.

"Kuwait also resists apartheid and occupying lands by force and supports national liberation movements in the world, in compliance with the principles of the UN charter," HH said.

Sheikh Jaber underlined that there were unprecedented chances for peace and development before the world in the decade of the '90s due to present atmosphere of international détente. But he said the world is facing at the same time enormous new challenges prompted by current political, economic, social, technological and environmental developments.

He urged world leaders and those assuming leading posts in various countries to strive for creating appropriate conditions for emergency of a new dawn in international relations.

The Amir referred also to social problems facing the world and said ecological and drugs trafficking come in the forefront along with international terrorism which threatens human values and norms.

Sheikh Jaber recalled the proposals he offered for resolving Third World debt problems during his address before the UN General Assembly in September 1988, and the initiative he made in this connection one year later before the non-aligned summit in Belgrade last September.

He said those proposals, which envisage writing off interests of debts, cancelling part of the principals and convening an international conference for debtor and donor states to resolve the problem, still represent the best means for handling the issue.

The Amir expressed concern over the widening gap between industrial and developing nations, noting that while world debts were on constant increase, price of raw materials were continuously declining, a fact that aggravated the situation.



Dresses galore hang on racks at the fashion fair

Fashion fair draws crowds

More than 100 companies participate

AN insatiable desire for clothes drew a large crowd to the Kuwait Spring-Summer Fashion Fair that opened at the International Fair Ground in Mishref on Feb 28. The exhibition itself is a grouping of several ready-made clothes dealers, selling their wares under one roof. It's a sort of a place that everyone can find something they have been looking for but were unable to locate it at one of the several markets. Items range from shoes to childrens wear and ladies costumes. Some European-designed fashions are also on display.

The largest variety comes from the Islamic clothes dealers — fully covered maxis which a majority of Arab women wear. Some of the best, and most elaborate are the heavily embroidered cottons and raw silk dresses from India; both ready made and fabrics are available. They seemed to be the best sellers — most abaya clad women were spotted near

shops of one of the many such exhibitors. Some may find the patterns and colours too garish but women who were buying them said they were "superb".

Sales

"We've just begun, but we've already sold many items," said one dealer.

Also popular at the fair are the 14 and 18 karat gold and silver costume jewellery from the US. Glittering American diamond rings, in exquisite designs and shapes, cost between KD 3 and KD 10, depending on the workmanship. One dealer said sales were brisk at the exhibition because "more people visited" such fairs.

Over 100 companies are taking part in the fair held by the Kuwait International Fair Company and organised and managed by Al Shera'a International Establishment. It runs daily from 9 am to 12.30 and 4 to 8.30 pm until March 7. (FA).

Albert hails Kuwait policies

BRUSSELS, March 2. (Kuna): Belgium Crown Prince Albert hailed the wise policy followed by Kuwait at a time of political and economic critical circumstances, adding that his country is eager to boost friendly relations with the Arab Gulf country.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency here, Prince Albert said that Kuwait was able to surpass difficult times during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war through pursuing a distinguished and wise policy in the region.

The Belgian crown prince hoped that the Gulf region would witness further progress and prosperity in its economic spheres during the forthcoming period.

Prince Albert was speaking at a reception held in his honour by the Kuwaiti ambassador here Ahmed Abdul Karim Al Ibrahim Wednesday night on the occasion of his scheduled visit to Kuwait during the period from March 9-12.

Investments

Meanwhile, Belgium Minister of Foreign Trade Robert Urbain said in a similar statement that his government hopes to foster economic association with Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

Urbain said that Kuwait and Belgium are near signing an agreement preventing double taxation, which will boost co-operation between them in the field of investments.

For his part, Ibrahim told Kuna that Belgium's positive stance from several Arab issues encourages fostering bilateral relations in different fields.

He added that there is a need to improve economic ties between Kuwait and Belgium, since Kuwait investments in Belgium are at low standard compared to other West European states.

Hussein warns Arabs of Soviet Jews threat

Jordan fears Palestinian influx

ABU DHABI, March 2. (Agencies): King Hussein of Jordan has warned Gulf leaders his country would be swamped by Palestinian refugees if thousands of Soviet Jews were allowed to settle in Israeli-occupied territories, Arab diplomats said Thursday.

The Jordanian monarch was touring Gulf Arab states to seek support for an urgent Arab summit on the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and held talks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the same day.

"The emigration of Jews to Israel and their possible settlement in the occupied territories is taking up the major part of Jordan's policy concerns," said one diplomat, close to the Jordan government.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that, a big Israel would be necessary to accommodate an estimated 750,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants over the next few years has alarmed Arab governments.

Independent estimates say Jordan is already host to over one million Palestinians, refugees mainly from the occupied West Bank, bordering Jordan, and the Gaza Strip.

"There will be a mass transfer of Palestinians to Jordan in 10 years as a result of Jewish settlement," the diplomat said.

He said the pressing need to settle so many Jewish immigrants could also bring a much more, headline Israeli government to powers which would view Jordan as an alternative Palestinian state.

Policy

Arab fears have also unsettled Moscow, which traditionally has had good ties with the Arab world.

On Wednesday, Moscow's Ambassador to the UAE Felix Fedotov assured Arab states that Moscow would try to stop the Jewish immigrants settling in the occupied areas where 1.7 million

Palestinians live.

The Soviet Union however would not change its policy of allowing them freedom to leave, Fedotov said.

Some 9,600 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel between January 1, and February 26, but over the last few months only a few hundred are estimated to have moved to West Bank settlements and none to the Gaza Strip.

Israel expects up to 100,000 to arrive this year and says they are free to settle where they like although it has no policy of encouraging them to go to the occupied territories.

However, the US embassy has pointed out that all settlers in the territories received special government benefits and tax breaks under existing programmes.

The Arab diplomats said most Gulf states had agreed in principle to an emergency summit but they might want to include other unspecified issues.

Rifts

King Hussein and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan stressed the importance of healing Arab rifts, during their talks on Thursday.

United Arab Emirates officials were quoted by the national news agency WAM, and were not identified further.

The agency's report came after Hussein left Abu Dhabi, the last stop on his tour of Gulf countries, seeking to muster support for Arab action over the anticipated flow of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel.

Official sources, who also spoke on condition they not be named, said the UAE president was expected to weigh in heavily in the efforts to heal the rift.

Hussein started his contacts with the six Gulf Co-operation Council states in Riyadh last month. He then hosted a summit conference last weekend in Amman for the leaders of Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

The Arab countries grouped in

the GCC have good ties with the United States, and the Jordanian monarch is believed to be urging them to press Washington for action on the issue of Soviet Jews.

"King Hussein wants the emergency Arab summit to be devoted only to pressing Washington to allow the influx of Soviet Jews to be settled in the United States," an official source told the Associated Press, speaking on condition he not be named.

"The king relayed to the leaders of the Gulf states his fears that Jordan might truly become the Palestine state, following the mass influx of Soviet Jews to Israel," the official said.

The official said the king feared that Israel would deport to Jordan many of the Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to make room for the newcomers.

King Hussein later flew back to Amman, Jordan's official news agency Petra reported.

Petra quoted Prime Minister Mudar Badran as telling reporters at the airport that the leaders of Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE had shown understanding of Jordan's economic problems.

"God willing the results of this trip will appear soon," Badran was quoted as saying.

Aid

Jordan, struggling with an eight-billion-dollar foreign debt, relies on financial aid from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states to cover its chronic budget and economic deficits.

Meanwhile three United Arab Emirates newspapers welcomed talks held Thursday between President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and King Hussein of Jordan.

"King Hussein will certainly find great openness by our leader on all issues he will raise during the talks which are aimed at boosting joint Arab action and serving the higher interests of our nation," Al Itihad said.

Fana to work out Europe news transmission policy

SANAA, March 2. (Kuna): The National Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies — Fana — has decided to hold the meeting for the editors in charge of the federation's news desks to work out an overall policy for transmission of news to Europe.

Following a two-day meeting here, the assembly, comprising directors-general of the various Arab news agencies, also decided to hold a joint meeting for Euro-Arab editors to evaluate Fana's news service and suggest means of improvement.

Few years ago, Fana decided to create a news pool in Kuwait to feed the Fana centre in Vienna with Arab for distribution in Europe.

The meeting further recommended that Arab news agencies should concentrate on economic and cultural stories and avoid official and local ones.

In order to transmit photos to Europe, the meeting agreed to hold a meeting for directors of photo and engineering sections in Algiers to lay down the technical requirements for this purpose, while Fana secretariat general will organise another meeting with European and socialist news agencies to study means for the exchange of photos between the two sides.

The meeting, in the meantime, paid tribute to the Italian news agency — Ansa — for its step in transmitting Fana news and transmitting them to Italian newspapers and decided to hold a meeting with the editors of Italian newspapers to help promote co-operation between the two sides, to pursue, further, the dialogue with European news agencies.

The meeting decided to hold a conference with these agencies in the first half of 1990 while the Qatari News Agency, in co-ordination with Kuna, Saudi Press and Jana, will prepare for a meeting with Japanese mass-media to ensure flow of Arab news to Japan.

Regarding co-operation with the United States, the meeting decided to send a delegation comprising the directors of agencies in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and Morocco for talks with officials of AP and UPI and the Guild of American Newspaper Editors to discuss aspects for publishing Arab news in these newspapers.

The meeting also adopted several resolutions and recommendations relating to co-operation with the Swiss, British and African media. It also formed a follow-up committee to obtain clarifications from AEP for its decision to shift the centre of its Arab bulletin from Cairo to Moscow.

Another recommendation of special significance is the one relating to the distribution of international agencies' services to the newspapers through the national news agencies. The secretariat general was asked to prepare a memorandum to the standing Arab information committee to this effect.

On political issues, the meeting hailed the Palestinian people's uprising against Israeli occupation for the restoration of their national rights under PLO leadership.

It also supported merger steps between the two parts of Yemen considering it a major step towards Arab unity.

Fana meeting started here two days ago under chairmanship of Kuna director Barges Hmoud Al Barges in the presence of the North Yemeni Minister of Information Ahmed Al Lawzi.

The general assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies wound up its two day conference by also looking into the co-operation between Arab news agencies and the Japanese media and the issue of holding a seminar grouping Arab and Japanese media people "to establish the ideal methods to facilitate the free flow of information and news."

The assembly commissioned the Middle East News Agency (Mena) with preparing a study on the negative stances of Associated Press and United Press International, to pave the way for a dialogue with these two agencies.

It also listened to a proposal from the general secretariat on sending Arab news to Southeast Asian countries through national news agencies.

The meeting agreed on holding Fana's 19th conference in Cairo on a date to be set later and also a meeting for editors of the news bulletin at the Arab news agencies and forming a Euro-Arab joint editorial committee.

APPROB to commemorate Pak resolution

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution passed in Lahore on March 23, 1940.

Dr Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Iqbal and a retired Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr Javed Iqbal will read a research paper on "The struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mr Nasir Javed Iqbal, a law graduate from Harvard University and Law Professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal."

A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar.

The patron of APPROB and Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr Zahid Saeed, will be the chief guest at the seminar to be attended by diplomats, Kuwaiti dignitaries and prominent personalities.

APPROB will also hold an evening with Dr Javed Iqbal and his wife on 24th March to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan.

OBITUARY

MR. A.C. PHILIP

(Joy)

aged 46, (Al Soziz Auditing Co. Kuwait) son of late Mr A.K. Chacko, Alumoottil, Thiruvannam, Chengannur, Kerala, entered his eternal glory on 2-3-90.

Body will be flown to India. For more details contact Tel: 3729843.

Oryx released in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, March 2. (AP): Saudi Arabian officials yesterday released several Arabian oryx bred in captivity, houbars bustards and ostriches into the wildlife reserve 180 kilometres (110 miles) east of the Red Sea mountain resort of Taif.

The reserve called Mahazat Al Sayed, a 2,190-square kilometre (845 square miles) track, is already home to all three endangered species.

Stop talking and work, minister advises Omani hotel force

MANAMA, March 2. (AP): Oman's Minister of Commerce and Industry Salim Al Ghazali has urged the fledgling local labour force in hotels to stop talking and complaining, an Omani newspaper reported.

The English-language Omani daily Observer that reached Bahrain yesterday quoted the minister as saying Omani hotel employees "must prove themselves by being patient and disciplined."

"They should stop talking so much and stop complaining. Instead they just try to work hard."

The minister's statements were made at a reception at the plush Al Bustan Palace Hotel, managed by the Inter-Continental chain, where some 200 nationals have been recruited into the hotel business in the past few years.

Oman, like the rest of the oil-rich coun-

tries on the Arabian peninsula, is gradually substituting nationals for the expatriate labour force that flowed in to build the major economic and social development schemes financed by the oil boom years. Among frequent Gulf travellers, Omanis are known for being hospitable.

The minister said Omanisation in hotels will not be at the expense of quality of service and efficiency, and said he was

happy with the pace of Omanisation in the hotel industry, now representing about 25 per cent of the hotel labour force. The rest come from the Indian subcontinent and the Philippines.

"It is a difficult and challenging job. They have accepted the challenge," he said, adding "I am most willing to replace an Omani who loses patience and who does not maintain discipline... by another Omani."

LAUGOLITA

السؤال هو الأول

KD140m allocated to maintain KU buildings

New university at Shadadiya in 2000

THE Scientific Consultative Council of Kuwait University has approved a budget of KD140 million for construction projects at the various faculties of the university. The budget does not include the cost of furnishing these buildings but only covers maintenance costs. The projects are to be carried out in the next five years.

The new Kuwait University campus at

Shadadiya (University City) which is to be built during the new Five-year Plan 1990-1995 will cost around KD300 million.

The maintenance projects programme was explained in detail at the three hour council meeting by Assistant Rector of Planning Dr Mohammed Nasser.

Some members of the consultative council however criticised the

programme because they deemed the whole exercise a waste of good money on temporary buildings while it should be spent on basic projects.

The new Kuwait University Campus will be built only after the maintenance work on all current faculties is completed. It is expected that the new university will be ready by the year 2000.

The KD140 million projected budget

will be spent on improving and maintaining faculty buildings in Shuwaikh, Khaldiya, Jabriya, Keifan and Udaibiya.

According to the plan approved by the consultative council the new Faculty of Administrative Sciences will be built in Shuwaikh on an area of 30,000 square metres, apart from the new Faculty of Engineering to be also built in Shuwaikh on an area of 50,000 square metres.

An additional third floor will be built in the main premises of the Faculty of Science in Khaldiya. The plan also includes temporary buildings at Khaldiya for the Engineering Faculty. A centre for medical sciences will be built beside the Faculty of Medicine in Jabriya on an area of 30,000 square metres. In Keifan, the faculties of Shari'ah and education will be renovated.

Computers in education experiment at university

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT University is carrying out an experiment at the computer centre to attract children to the world of computers. Kuwait is considered one of the most computerised societies in the Arab world. It is very well developed in its information capabilities — both in the public and private sectors. Again, it has a sophisticated communication infrastructure which lends itself quite well to the establishment of information networks. There are many highly integrated information networks in the private and public sectors, mainly at the institutional level.

The experiment to attract children to the computer field at the Kuwait University, began in March last year under the supervision of Dr Iqbal Behbehani.

Behbehani from the Faculty of Education at Kuwait University is specialised in using computers for educational purposes. At Kaifan campus children between 8 and 16 years old get trained on the computer in courses which are held every month.

Behbehani said that the main aim of these courses is to train children on methods of using computers in education and problem solving.

The training course focuses on the basic concepts and principles of computers. Children are given all of the required information about computers as they have little or no background on the subject. Information provided to children are suited to their age and abilities.

The official added that computer courses consist of six lectures of a total of 12 hours (two hours each). Some children who attend the courses have personal computers at home while others opt to purchase them after joining the course.

The official said that the aim is to teach children computer science is important to enable them to compete with their peers in advanced countries.

Behbehani said that experiment takes into consideration the children's love of computer games and educational games are offered during lectures as an added incentive.

She added that children training are grouped according to age and language. Those complete courses are better to do their school work on a personal computer, the official said.

Pakistani beheaded in S. Arabia

NICOSIA, March

(Reuters): Saudi Arabia today publicly beheaded a Pakistani convicted of attempting to smuggle heroin into the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency said today.

The agency quoted Interior Ministry spokesman as saying the man was "caught upon entry to kingdom (travelling) on false passport...heroin (was) found in a secret compartment in his suitcase."

Saudi Arabia has so far beheaded 13 people this year. Official figures show at least 99 were executed last year.

Riyadh Radio quoted another Interior Ministry statement as saying four Filipinos convicted of robbery had their right hands cut off today in the eastern city of Jubail.

It said the men had been sentenced to life in prison and shops in four cities.

Traffic accidents

TRAFFIC accidents in Kuwait during the month of January 1990 resulted in 24 fatalities, according to statistics.

During the same period, 1,001 traffic cases were reviewed by the court in Kuwait City, 2,438 in Hawally, 1,124 in Ahmadi and 1,198 by the court in Jahra.

Total number of cases finalised during the same period were 7,406. Total amount of fines collected amounted to KD183,261 with 127 driving licences being revoked.

Kuwait-Brussels to sign several accords

Airlink may be established

BRUSSELS, March 2, (Kuna): The Belgian Minister of Foreign Trade Robert Urbain said here today his country and Kuwait will enter a new stage of economic co-operation after the signature of several accords between the two governments.

The Belgian minister was speaking in an exclusive interview to the Kuwait News Agency on the eve of his visit to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait as part of a commercial delegation headed by Belgian Crown Prince, Prince Albert.

"There is a mutual conviction on the necessity to develop relations between the two countries, and my visit to Kuwait will be an occasion to sign a number of agreements," said Urbain.

He noted that Kuwait and Belgium are only steps away from signing an agreement on the prevention of dual taxation which will eventually have positive consequences on the exchange of investments.

The Belgian minister said his talks with Kuwaiti officials will renew talks on the possibility of establishing an airline liaison between Brussels and Kuwait.

He noted that in order to facilitate commercial exchange, businessmen from both countries must be given a chance for direct flights to avoid using transit hubs like London, Paris and Frankfurt.

Urbain highlighted the strong relations between Kuwait and Belgium, recalling that his country has participated in international efforts in the mid 1980's to clear the Gulf waters from

mines not only by a government decision but also by popular demand.

He pointed out that the presence of the Belgian Crown Prince at the head of the delegation to the UAE and Kuwait is a witness to the importance given to these countries by Belgium.

On the Middle East conflict, the Belgian minister said that his country, a signatory state of the EEC Madrid Declaration on the right of the Palestinian people for a state, supports all the initiatives for peace in the Middle East.

Recalling that the Belgian foreign minister was in Egypt last week for talks on the Middle East peace process, Urbain said Belgium is in constant contact with all Arab countries for consultation on the situation there.

"At the same time," the minister said, "We want to see a strong and durable solution to the Gulf conflict and restore a lasting peace in that region."

Belgium will save no effort to push forward the peace process in the Gulf, he said, expressing hope that the issue impeding the signature of a peace treaty between Iraq and Iran would be overcome at the shortest delay.

Reconstruction

"Personally, I have refrained from visiting Iraq and Iran during the years of the war to avoid giving the impression that we stand with one camp against the other," Urbain maintained.

But now after ceasefire, Urbain said Belgium is hoping that its neutrality will allow it to participate in the reconstruction and development of both coun-

tries.

The Belgian minister said it is "normal" that the Third World countries are concerned about the future of economic co-operation with the western industrialised nations in the light of developments in Eastern Europe.

"It is normal because since last October, week after week, the development of east-west relations has been on top of the west's international priorities," he maintained.

"But by extending aid to Eastern European nations in the process of their democratisation and reforming themselves to market economies, we do not want to neglect our duties to the Third World," Urbain underlined.

On the medium range, he explained, cuts in defence and security budgets as a result of an east-west détente will provide the financial means to continue aiding the economic development programmes in the Third world.

Urbain said the southern coast of the Mediterranean Basin should not be concerned about the West's economic aid to Eastern Europe because the relations of solidarity and co-operation are stronger than any cause of change.

He said that upon his return from the Gulf, he will meet with Ambassadors of the Arab Maghreb states not only to discuss bilateral co-operation but also to assure them that Belgium and the other European community nations will not reduce the volume of economic aid.



US reception

US Ambassador to Kuwait W. Nathaniel Howell Wednesday hosted a reception at the chancery in honour of Dr Thomas D. Larson, Federal Highway Administrator, US Department of Transportation. Larson, a former dean of engineering, Pennsylvania University, was on an official visit to Kuwait. A large number of senior Kuwaiti officials attended the reception. (Photograph: Javed Baara)

Child safety stressed

Traffic Week opens today

THE Gulf Co-operation Council states are marking their 7th unified Traffic Week today. Activities will continue till March 9th. Director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji said in a special interview on the occasion that this year's Traffic Week is held under the banner "Traffic Safety for Children." He said that the subject was specially selected to throw more light on the importance of children in Gulf society and the necessary ways to protect them from traffic accidents.

Phenomena

Hajji spoke about the many negative phenomena

spreading all over the Gulf in dealing with the issue of children. He said that many drivers prefer to drive their cars while keeping their children in the front seats and some times along with the driver. Many people leave their cars working with many children inside without taking any precautionary measures to avoid accidents.

Police traffic delegations from the GCC countries will arrive in Kuwait to take part in the week's activities, Hajji said. Similarly, a 15-strong traffic police delegation has left for other GCC states to participate in similar activities.



Tailender

The driver of this car was driving at very high speed when he lost control of the car and off the Arab Gulf street exactly opposite the Salam Palace, demolished part of a public garden fence and finally collided with a big tree. The tree was uprooted and totally damaged. No details are known on the condition of the driver.

Action Line

MY FRIEND was caught by the police and deported to Pakistan because his residence had expired and he had failed to renew it. I want to know if I can arrange a new visa for him so that he can return to Kuwait. Is there any limit, like two years, during which he cannot come back.

If he wants to go to Dubai or any other Gulf state, is it possible? Or has he been blacklisted in all Gulf countries.

Mohammad Ali

AN EXPATRIATE is deported on the order of the Ministry of Interior. The residence law No. 17/1959 discusses deportation. Article 16 stipulates that the Ministry of Interior reserves the right to deport any foreigner. To quote: "The Ministry of Interior may order in writing the deportation of any alien, even if such an alien has obtained a residence permit."

First: If the alien has been convicted, and consequently the court has recommended his deportation.

Second: If the alien has no visible means of livelihood.

Third: If the Interior Ministry deems that the public interest, public security or the public moral necessitates the deportation of the alien."

Article 19 stipulates that an alien who has been deported is not permitted to return to Kuwait unless a special permission has been granted by the Ministry of Interior.

The residence law does not provide any guideline on the period after which a deportee can re-enter Kuwait.

Article 20 says a foreigner can be expelled from Kuwait by the order of the Ministry of Interior if he has no valid residence, if he has not obtained one or the period of his residence permit has expired. However, he may return to Kuwait if he satisfies the requirements of entry conditions in accordance with the provisions of the residence law.

You can write to the Ministry of Interior, asking for pardon and seeking permission for your friend to re-enter Kuwait, and they will decide the matter on merits of the case.

A deportation issue here prevents an alien from entering Kuwait. It does not apply to other Gulf countries; and a person deported in Kuwait is not prevented from entering other Gulf countries.

THERE is a leakage from the flat above mine, affecting the roof in the bathroom/toilet in my flat. I reported this matter to the building harris several times, who promised to look into the matter. He inspected the bathroom and eventually, he took up the matter with the landlord, who also inspected the bathroom. The landlord said: "We will see later, not now". Later, the harris told me that all the work inside the flat must be done by me and the landlord will take care of the work outside the building. He said this is the law. However, the harris collected money from all the tenants to paint the building.

The matter of repairing the bathroom has not been resolved. The concrete on the bathroom roof is peeling and water is likely to damage electrical conduits. Two tenants are involved. What action can I take? Whose job is it to carry out the repairs?

A. Fernandes

RENT LAW, 35/1978: Article 8 stipulates that the landlord "undertakes to maintain the leased, immovable property during the term of the lease and carry out the necessary repairs, particularly the maintenance of the roof, stairs, lifts, water pipes and any leakage of the drainage and septic tanks. In the event of his delay to do so after due notification, accordingly, the tenant may secure a permit from the judicial authority to carry out the said work and then deduct the relevant costs from the rent. However, in case the maintenance costs reached a substantial amount to the extent that the tenant is overburdened with the same, the obligation of the tenant shall be limited to a suitable extent as estimated by the competent judge, where the rent of the said property and the term of its occupation shall be taken into consideration. Consequently, the tenant shall either revoke the lease or bear any amount exceeding such a limit."

So, the law says that the landlord undertakes to replace and maintain major jobs like roofs, stairs, lifts, water pipes and the sewage network. And if the owner does not do this, the tenant has the right to get permission from the court to fix the place, and deduct the amount from the rent. What you can do is file a case against the owner, and the tenant who is living on the top floor, and get the money from any one of the two who is responsible; the court will determine responsibility. This must be done at once. An inspector will visit the apartment, to determine responsibility. But you must take action as soon as possible. This is not only bad for you, but for the entire building.

PLEASE advise what legal documents I would require to raise donations in Kuwait for the construction of a mosque in Fatehpar, Rajasthan.

My father has donated a large piece of land and with the help of Muslim brothers we have built an Islamic school, which gives free tuition. However, the Muslim community is not financially well-off to further raise funds to build a mosque. Please specify what documents are needed to seek donations from Muslim brethren in Kuwait and Oman.

Abdul Aziz Tayebali M. Kazi

IN KUWAIT, you can seek donations with the assistance of the Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs. And, you must get all the relevant documents regarding the land; approval for building a mosque on the land and get the permission from the Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs. Once the permission has been granted, you can ask for donations from different establishments. And there are many philanthropic people who can help you in the matter.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 220, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

From the courts

Two years RI for illegal alien

THE Criminal Court has ordered the imprisonment with hard labour and subsequent deportation of a man charged with illegally staying in the country, and illegal entry of a house.

The court heard that the man tried to evade running into plainclothes policemen who were checking the residence permit of some pedestrians, as his had expired since June 12, 1989.

He slipped over the balcony of a nearby flat and the maid caught sight of him and woke up her employer who held him in the house until the police came to pick him up.

The court sentenced him to two years in jail with hard labour for the first charge and one month with hard labour to be followed by deportation on the second charge.

The Criminal Court has sentenced two Kuwaitis to one year in jail with hard labour each and a third, non-Kuwaiti to a similar period with subsequent deportation.

The court was told that a plainclothes security officer had offered marked police money to the defendant as a price for two bottles of liquor, and

upon delivery he had him arrested.

The defendant revealed his source and the police issued a warrant to search his residence where he found five bottles of liquor and KD350 of which 50 were marked police cash.

The second admitted that some of the contraband belonged to their third partner and that they used the material for their personal use and never intended it for sale.

The court based its ruling on the confession of the first two suspects and overlooked the denial of the third.

The Criminal Court has decided to refrain from ruling against five men charged with beating up another who failed to pay them KD5 each for doing some building work.

The court heard that the victim had hired the five defendants to build a 17-metre wall on his residence for him, but refused to pay them the amount agreed upon and gave them only KD20.

To get their money, three of them dragged him out of his car and the other two beat him up and snatched the money from him.



Paya on his cosmopolitan bicycle.

Free spirit

Polish cyclist in Wafra

By J. Andrzej Porter
Arab Times staff

THE best things in life are free, is Edward Paya's motto. Just so that he could pay for some of the lesser pleasures the 68-year old retired professor from Warsaw, Poland, took with him \$200 and set out last May on a 15-month tour of Europe, the Middle East and East Africa. He is travelling by bicycle, originally a Polish-made Gazela, which, having undergone repairs in scores of countries is now a cosmopolitan as its owner.

Edward is now in Kuwait having cycled, and sometimes walked, 294 days and 10,320 kilometres. He is relaxing in Wafra in preparation for the next leg of his journey that would take him to Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Sudan and Tanzania before he heads for Europe. He plans to cycle into Warsaw on the 15th of this month.

Then the former professor of geography who has all his working life spent about countries, rivers and mountains, most of which he has never seen, will deliver a talk with a difference. Dressed in a dishdasha and wearing a gutra, accompanied by his wife in abaya, Edward will talk about his adventures and particularly about his experience in the Middle East.

Yet separating him from that day are thousands of kilometres on deserted or busy and dangerous roads, scores of nights to be spent under the open skies, at train stations or even cemeteries, dozens of friendships yet to be made. His chest swells with pride as he speaks of his stamina and the good people without whose generosity his trips could have come to an abrupt end.

Wanderlust is an incomplete answer to the question: why has this man chosen to suffer the discomfort and expose himself to danger instead of living a comfortable life of a retired academic.

"Living an easy life does not bring happiness. I prefer a harder life, but how hard I would like to choose myself," explained Edward. Even a much younger man would have balked at what Edward has chosen for himself on this trip and even the previous cycling tours of Europe and Asia.

Braving the elements, dangerous roads and animals this man of Hemingwayesque appearance and spirit plods along at five to eight kilometres an hour on a bike that carries his eighty kilograms plus as many in basic supplies and tools. Although he is in excellent health, "my blood pressure is like that of a young man and I still have most of my own teeth" — he admits that his arms, and not his legs, feel the pressure as he pushes the weight of some 150 kilos. As the pain grows he wrestles with it in a kind of a self-endurance test but eventually looks out for a nice grass patch to spend the night. On lucky days he runs into good people who want to hear about his adventure and also offer shelter and a good meal. They are never forgotten, their names are in his more than an inch thick diary where records of his journey are kept together with postcards, little flags, and maps.

Edward has so far visited 37 countries covering 157,650 kilometres. But a 3.5 metre long photocopy of his passport featuring all manner of stamps can say nothing of the times when he writhed in pain after a road accident in Spain that left him with a head injury and broken leg and ribs.

Yet the hardest part of every trip takes place before he sets out. Saying good bye to his wife, three children and seven grandchildren is the most heart-wrenching experience for this elderly but tough adventurer and eccentric.

In his letters to the family, which he religiously sends every ten days, he has written about some of the most moving events on his travels. Among those the dearest were the ones that brought back memories of youth.

On August 6, 1985 Edward placed flowers on behalf of all Poles at the memorial in Hiroshima dedicated to the victims of atomic bomb attacks. He then recalled the days when as a young Polish soldier he fought the Nazis.

In Spain in 1982 Edward was an impassioned spectator at the World Football Championship. Not that he was an excited fan of one team or another. He merely relived the days when as a young man he worked as a football referee.

There was no pomp when a tired cyclist pedalled into the city of Troy, but for an admirer of old civilisations this was one of the most exciting moments in his life.

And he plans some more of these trips down memory lane in which the past fits so snugly into the present. Another of his passions, he started back in 1980, to follow big rivers from their source to the point of confluence, will end with a sentimental journey down the Polish river San.

"It is on the banks of this river that I was born, grew up and got married," he says with a glint in his eye.

He has already followed the flow of 11 rivers, among them the Tigris and later this year the Nile. By the end of this century, he says, he will have had an intimate knowledge of 20 rivers. How can he be so sure? Well, he has planned so, and he has no intention of dying before the age of 100.

"The first twenty years in your life you should spend learning, the next 30 years working and the following you should be travelling," he says. And he has practised what he preaches.

His next big project is a trip around the world — by bicycle. But this time round the Pole plans to have the company of musicians and football and volleyball referees. As they travel they will play music and organise matches for village boys. The group is now appealing for donations from sponsors.

So, if you see a white-bearded man on a bicycle, stop and say hello. You won't regret it. For, as the man says, the best things in life are free.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PEOPLE ask you for criticism, but they only want praise
— W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).

Army battles rebels

Catastrophe
in the making

NAIROBI, Kenya, (AP): Ethiopia and rebels in its northernmost province of Eritrea are locked in battle for a small, steamy Red Sea port that represents a door of life for starving millions.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam has called the struggle for Massawa a "fight to the death" to prevent the collapse of one third of his army and the secession of Eritrea.

But on the outcome of the battle also hangs the fate of an estimated 4 million people in northern Ethiopia in peril of starving to death in the next few months.

"It's grim," said one Western relief worker. "We're looking at a catastrophe in the making."

The United Nations had hoped to ship most of 1.1 million tons of donor food through Massawa to feed drought victims in Eritrea and neighbouring Tigre, Wollo and Gondor provinces.

But with each passing day of massive, but seemingly inconclusive fighting between government forces and the Eritrean people's liberation front, that hope fades.

The Eritrean rebels, breaking an almost year-long de facto ceasefire, attacked Mengistu's 2nd Army along a 200-mile (320-kilometre) front on Feb 8.

Within two days, the rebels claimed the capture of Massawa.

Without specifically denying the claim, the government in Addis Ababa said fighting for the port was continuing. The rebels later accused the government of subjecting Massawa to heavy artillery, bomb and napalm attacks.

Rebels

The rebels contended as recently as last Thursday that they still controlled the port, but both sides have had little to say about the fighting for more than a week.

Since each side normally crowds about victories, diplomats and other observers in Addis Ababa take the absence of battlefield reports to mean the battle for the port continues.

On Feb 17, in an unprecedented burst of candour, Mengistu said his 2nd Army faced collapse and Eritrea would secede if the rebels gained control of Massawa.

"We have no alternative but to fight to the death," Mengistu told his armed forces in a radio and television broadcast.

"What we don't know is whether the port is going to be usable, no matter whose hands it winds up," said the Western relief worker. "It presumably has been badly damaged."

Diplomats and aid officials interviewed by telephone from Nairobi would not speak for attribution. They must deal with Mengistu's government and are leery of offending it.

Ethiopia fields Africa's largest army, an estimated 315,000 men, most of them ill-trained and poor motivated peasant conscripts. Between 120,000 and 130,000 are assigned to the 2nd Army, which has borne the brunt of a 28-year-old secessionist war by the Eritrean rebels.

Strength

The International Institute for Strategic Studies, a London think-tank, puts the strength of the Eritrean rebels at about 30,000, but they are known to be well armed, mostly with captured weapons, and highly disciplined.

In the first few days of fighting for Massawa and the road that connects it with the provincial capital of Asmara, the rebels claim to have killed, captured or wounded 12,000 government soldiers and seized 72 Soviet-made tanks, 22 artillery pieces and tons of small arms. They also say they sank 12 Ethiopian Navy craft in or near the port.

As ports go, Massawa isn't much — a cluster of whitewashed stone buildings of mostly Islamic architecture, narrow streets and a population of 19,400.

But it is one of only two ports of Ethiopia's Red Sea coast, has two deep-water berths and, until the rebels began their offensive, was the main northern gateway to mostly arid and mountainous Eritrea.

Routes

The country's only other port is at Assab, also in Eritrea near its border with Djibouti. It, however, has no deep water berths.

Beyond Massawa, there are few alternative routes for emergency food aid.

Another rebel group, the Tigre People's Liberation Front, cut the only highway from the capital north to Asmara a year ago. Some food could be trucked in from neighbouring Sudan, but few vehicles are available, the roads are terrible and, at least for now, all movements must be at night for fear of Ethiopian air attacks.

In this year's harvest failed in large part of Eritrea and Tigre provinces and, to a lesser extent, in Wollo and Gondor. What food stocks remain from a year ago are rapidly running out.

Some 25,000 refugees already have fled Tigre into Sudan and United Nations and other aid officials expect their number to grow as fighting hails food deliveries in northern Ethiopia.

Those officials foresee a replay of Ethiopia's great famine of 1984-85, in which as many as 1 million people may have died. Their grim scenario has hundreds of thousands of desperate refugees crowding into makeshift camps where, weakened by hunger and long treks in search of food, more die of disease than from meagre rations.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1638 — Franco-Swedish alliance is renewed for three years.
- 1707 — Mogul Emperor Aurangzeb dies in India and is succeeded by Bahadur Shah.
- 1808 — French forces under Joachim Murat occupy Madrid.
- 1813 — Britain signs treaty of Stockholm with Sweden, which agrees to supply army in return for British subsidies and promises not to oppose union with Norway.
- 1861 — Emancipation of Russian serfs is proclaimed.
- 1896 — Peace of Bucharest between Serbia and Bulgaria is signed.
- 1924 — Germany signs treaty of friendship with Turkey.
- 1932 — Chinese forces are driven back from Shanghai by Japanese.
- 1944 — US fighter planes make first appearance over Berlin in World War II.
- 1955 — Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey establish representative parliamentary council.
- 1963 — US government announces that its project of landing men on the moon will be followed by a large manned laboratory orbiting the earth.
- 1974 — Turkish airliner crashes in forest near Paris, killing 345 people.
- 1976 — US administration of president Gerald Ford discloses that it has decided to sell weapons to Egypt.
- 1986 — Protestant militants go on car-burning rampage in central Belfast, Northern Ireland, in protest against Anglo-Irish accord.
- 1988 — Political clashes leave 11 people dead and more than 300 injured in Bangladesh as accusations of vote fraud mar parliamentary elections.
- 1989 — West German officials warn of dangerous new dimension in international espionage following exposure of West German spy ring.

Need for survival necessitates

Communist media changes tune

VIENNA, Austria, (AP): East Germany's Neues Deutschland, once the leading voice of the Communist Party, is now advertising movies, jobs and vacation homes in the West.

In Bulgaria, angry readers buy the Communist Party newspaper just to tear it up.

All over Eastern Europe, formerly omnipotent communist dailies, for decades the voice of Marxist-Leninist governments, are facing hard times.

With communist rule crumbling after more than 40 years of single-party dominance, the state-run press is changing its tune in a bid to keep readership. Survival means providing credible alternatives to new independent newspapers across the region that cover new parties, issues and grievances.

Media

While some of the East bloc's media flagships have followed the parties into oblivion, others are trying to avoid the same fate by attracting foreign investors or trying to become independent.

In Romania, where communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled and executed in December, the former party daily Scinteia (spark) was renamed Adevarul (truth) and is no longer the party's voice.

"The Communist Party is dead. It self-dissolved because of its close association with Ceausescu's tyrannical rule," interim President Ion Iliescu said.

In its reborn version, Adevarul calls itself an independent daily. It prints stories lambasting Ceausescu's harsh brand of Communism in a break with the old practice of glorifying the dictator.

In Bulgaria, rivalries between readers of a new opposition daily, democracy, and those of the revamped Communist Party daily apparently set off a newspaper spat in February.

In a commentary entitled, "Auto-da-fé — Without fire," the communist daily Rabotnichesko Delo (Workers' Cause) acknowledged that many copies of the paper bought in shops in mid-February were torn up on the spot.

Democracy urged its readers not to tear up Rabotnichesko Delo, saying this was "uncivilized." It suggested that readers dissatisfied with the communist daily should mail it back to the editors.

In Czechoslovakia, editors of the Communist Party daily apologized for spreading untruths, propaganda and offensive language against those who dared to deviate from the party line in the years before the leadership was ousted in November.

"Serious political debate was abandoned in favour of personal attacks and scandalization of people whose opinions differed from those of the communist leadership," said Zdenek Porybný, who became editor in January.

For years, Rude Pravo attacked Václav Havel and other prominent dissidents. Now Havel has become Czechoslovakia's president.

Facelift

The paper got a facelift as well as a change of editorial policy. Since the beginning of the year, it has been published in a smaller format but has almost doubled its pages to 16. Soviet-style medal insignias have been dropped from the masthead.

Circulation dropped by about 200,000 to 920,000 after the peaceful November revolution, and that may be not enough for the paper to survive. Deputy editor Michal Rízk admitted that about three per cent of the copies on the newsstand are never sold.

East Germany's Neues Deutschland has changed its name to Sozialist and added such features as a serialized novel, crossword puzzle and a television guide including West German listings.

Editor Wolfgang Spickermann said the paper has about one million subscribers, but it needs more. The paper's price goes up in April in a bid to become self-supporting after losing a large subsidy from the Communist Party.

In its new garb, the newspaper gives coverage to opposition political parties that Neues Deutschland never would have acknowledged before the old regime fell last autumn.

Among the latest gimmicks to attract more readers are advertisements for films in West Germany and vacation homes in Italy, and even West German products and jobs.

"Now, we are buying the paper not to listen to his master's voice any more, but to find out what's going on around us," said Uwe Endlioger, an East Berlin auto worker.

In Hungary, ownership of the former Communist Party organ Nepszabadsag passed over to the Hungarian Socialist Party when it changed its name in October. This has also resulted in a less rigid approach to political reporting.

In a more spectacular move, British press baron Robert Maxwell bought a 40 per cent share in the former communist-run government daily Magyar Nemzet to save it from bankruptcy.

Maxwell said he regarded his Hungarian investment as the first of several media joint ventures in the



THE SPECTER THAT DIVIDES GERMANY

Centam burying Communism

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The collapse of communism in Europe is sending shock waves through Central America.

And the same reasons appear to apply for the rejection of Marxist governments in both regions. Top among them is the depressed, and often desperate economies of the countries that are falling by the wayside.

The Soviet-imposed system of government control of all goods and services over a period of 40 years brought little prosperity and much sacrifice. The economic Utopia that was supposed to emerge from the dictatorship of the people was far from that.

The Communist Party elite in Moscow and the satellites in the Soviet sphere, including Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, thrived and lived high on the hog.

Masses

But the masses, who had nothing to lose but their chains as the communist battle cry claimed, were ground under oppressive regimes that produced only the bare necessities and little consumer goods.

In the last year, those governments hit rock bottom, leading Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to initiate reforms that led to the beginning of

the end of communism in Eastern Europe.

In Nicaragua, the Marxist government of President Daniel Ortega was subjected to a relentless US-backed military and economic assault for eight years. From the moment he came into office, former president Ronald Reagan threw down the gauntlet against communist expansion in the hemisphere, targeting Nicaragua as the Soviet Union's last stronghold in the Americas.

Nicaragua's rule under the two-pronged attack of economic sanctions and guerrilla warfare by US-trained and backed rebel Contras. The bloody skirmishes left hundreds dead on both sides.

Guerrilla

The United States poured untold millions of dollars into the guerrilla effort. At one time, CIA went beyond the pale by using an assassination manual as a point. The illegal backing of the Contras with funds from the covert arms to Iran also created the Iran-Contra scandal, plagued Reagan in the final years of his presidency.

The election of a democratic regime under Violeta Chamorro in Nicaragua opened a new chapter and is expected to result in the lifting of US aid to the new government as well as quick lifting of the US embargo.

The Nicaraguan election also further isolates Cuba as the only remaining communist government in the Western hemisphere. President Fidel Castro is finding it increasingly difficult to rely on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for arms and aid.

Gorbachev, who visited Castro last year, tried to deliver the message that Stalinism was out, and that his perestroika and glasnost reforms were the wave of the future. The Cuban leader was not in a mood to accept the admonition at the time. But now the handwriting is on the wall.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall, the peaceful revolutions in Eastern and Central Europe, Castro will be feeling the pressure more and more, and his remaining allies and friends are becoming more remote.

Karl Marx is the big loser and by early in the 21st century, his political philosophy may be history. China and Albania are trying to hold the fort, but it's doubtful that they can withstand the democratic juggernaut sweeping the globe.

All over the world, the people are turning the rascals out. They are able to do so because peaceful revolts are being allowed to prevail. It is a remarkable turn of events when guns, are silent and decisions are allowed to be made at the ballot box.

Letters to the editor

Fund-raising scheme

SIR: Recently a lot of controversy has been generated in the English press in Kuwait among the Indians on their fund-raising and money making associations. Most of the so-called associations formed by the Indians in Kuwait have done so in the name of their respective communities, on the regional basis. This being the case, these associations are duty-bound to make known openly all their dealings to their respective communities, moreover when they engage in their activities and programmes and functions at least most of their community members, if not all.

According to my observations most of the so-called Indian associations are bogus, they are just cliques of few like-minded people who come into being to make money in the name of their respective communities. In order to survive and legitimise their illegitimate acts, the people of these bogus associations invite dignitaries as guests of honour who innocently oblige to them. When these personalities bless their functions, the presidents and other office bearers of these bogus associations spread in the entire communities that their activities are even approved by these important people and in this way they fool the poor and ignorant Indians. These Indians are getting fooled because they are unable to determine what is fair and what is unfair. In view of this, I feel, in future, no dignitary should be present as guest of honour or in any other capacity for the functions organised by all those Indian associations whose record of financial dealings are tarnished in the press.

For the sake of information, some of the presidents of the so-called Indian associations are even trying to inculcate fear complex into the minds of the innocent Indians just below their nose saying they can do this and do that to so and so person for objecting their misdeeds.

Most of the presidents of the so-called Indian associations, before coming to Kuwait, did not know the meaning of a president and how to spell it — so backward they were and still they are. For this reason Indians of dignity and learning do not accept this position of shame.

Another aspect, giving the certain hall for any functions should not be done through some presidents of some associations only. Because of this practice some

of the presidents have become "dadas" in the eyes of the community. If this trend not arrested now only then there is every possibility for these "dadas" to ask for bribes to offer their services in getting the hall booked through their contact. Most of the presidents and other office bearers of these associations are not known to perform duty free of charge, they are not social workers, whatever little opportunities they get, they make maximum use of it to fill their pockets.

An Indian reader,
Name and address supplied.

Death of journalist

SIR: The killing of the well-known Sri Lankan journalist Richard de Zoysa has been highlighted in the press in Kuwait. The government of Sri Lanka has given the following media release regarding this.

"Addressing the weekly news briefing Ranjita Wijeratne, minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defence said that the government has ordered a full investigation into all aspects of the killing of journalist Richard de Zoysa. He said that it was possible that the killing was the work of some interested parties to bring discredit and cause embarrassment to the government. Some people who have a vested interest in throwing mud at the government to this type of killing, throw the body into the sea and try to pin it on to the police and security forces. The government will not take this lying down. The long arm of the law will catch up."

Bradman Weerakoon presidential adviser on international affairs said the timing of the shooting should be taken into account to realise its international dimensions. This is the time aid donor countries are beginning to recognise that the worst is over in Sri Lanka and are welcoming the withdrawal of (emergency) powers regarding disposal of dead bodies given to security forces. They have also appreciated the presidential statement to the all party conference that the removal of the emergency is uppermost in his mind. He added that it was also the time when the United States' Congress annual report on human rights was going to the Foreign Relations Committee. This committee report affects the thinking of aid donors.

Wijeratne continuing his address to the newsmen said that the government has decided that all persons

being licensed or unlicensed firearms will be requested to surrender them to the police by March 31, '90 for arrest. This decision will be implemented to the law. The objective is to rid the country of the growing gun culture. The government is going all out to make the country a gunless country. This decision will be implemented in the case of every person and every part of the country and all will have to comply with it or else the consequences will be in accordance with the laws of the country. Guns were distributed in the recent past to protect various categories of persons from JVP assassins. The need for guns is no more. They should now be returned to the government. The government is in possession of the names of persons to whom firearms have been issued, therefore checking who has not returned them will not be difficult.

President accompanied by A.J. Rasasinghe, state minister for information paid their last respect to the late Richard de Zoysa at his residence.

Latiff Sherifdeen,
Ambassador,
Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait.

Good organising

SIR: I am very grateful to the organising committee of the Human Rights Day of Kuwait (Dawoodi Bohra) for the great interest shown in organising the Abdul Qasoor Cricket Trophy finals which was played on Feb 27 at Siddique Groun in Sharq under the auspices of the Dawoodi Bohra Sh. Nooruddin Bhai Sahab.

I want to write to personally thank all the members who made this event a remarkable one, and at the same time I would like to request you to also continue with such sports activities in order to encourage our committee to have more indoor and outdoor games.

Shabbir H. Surri,
Safat.

All letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Austerity
fuels crisis

ABIDJAN, (AP): As the Ivory Coast's only leader since independence from France in 1960, Felix Houphouët-Boigny has used a mixture of adroit politics and occasional police action to keep one of black Africa's most prosperous nations under his firm control.

But an economic crisis in the West African nation has led to violent street protests. Demonstrating university students and high school pupils have been demanding the overthrow of Africa's longest-serving president and an end to one-party rule.

Crisis

The crisis springs from austerity measures imposed by the 84-year-old leader at the demand of Western aid donors, who have already shown substantial flexibility in rescheduling the country's debt. At \$12 billion for a nation of 11 million people, it is a bigger per-capita debt than that of Brazil, Latin America's most heavily indebted nation.

"Our cup of anger overflowed when the last drop of water dribbled from the tap," said a law student. He said the drop fell Monday night in a student residence already darkened by power cuts.

The state-run power company said the cuts were caused by an explosion at a transformer. Nothing was said officially of the water shortage. But it was widely believed the power cuts followed a protest by workers forced to take 30 per cent pay cuts under the austerity programme.

The government-controlled press has been silent on the street protests and the demonstrators' demands. The press, which routinely lionizes the leader, reported only that Houphouët-Boigny had magnanimously pardoned some detained students. It did not publish the protesters' demands.

For years, Houphouët has remained in power by occasional crackdown on the opposition and, according to critics, a knack for co-opting the opposition to his cause. The Ivory Coast has a good reputation in the West because of Houphouët's pro-Western policies, and the nation has been a prime recipient of outside aid and support.

Opposition

One opposition leader, Laurent Gbagbo, says he refused to be seduced with a high-paying government job and perks such as chauffeur-driven Mercedes Benz.

"In the past, people did not feel badly governed because, if there was a problem, the government just doled it out. They had lots of money and just doled it out," he said.

The government has used tougher tactics, too, however. When it felt threatened by criticism from the university lecturers' union in 1987 it effectively hijacked the body. Office-holders were arrested for alleged embezzlement of funds and drafted into military service for two years. A hand-picked committee replaced them.

But when economic problems last year began to become particularly serious, Houphouët-Boigny called a national dialogue in September. He told delegates no holds were barred, but he rejected a demand from Margel Ette of the Labour Union — now reconstituted as an independent body — for multiparty democracy.

The president said there would be no multiparty democracy during his lifetime. Using an argument advanced by other African one-party rulers, he argued a multiparty system would endanger national unity in a country still beset by many tribal rivalries.

The Ivory Coast constitution allows political opposition.

"But things start happening if you try to insist on your rights," Gbagbo said in an interview. "You and your friends get arrested. Your bank account gets frozen. Suddenly, business isn't good."

Gbagbo has been detained for various periods of time, has lost his job as professor of history at the state university, and often is under surveillance.

His movement's newsletter "Events" was banned this month "in the interest of public order and preventing the dissemination of false information." At least six people caught selling it have been detained. The last edition called for a peaceful transition to multiparty democracy.

Gbagbo shares the most prominent place in the opposition with Robert Bgai Tagro, a former civil servant who leads the Republican Party.

Agricultural

Houphouët-Boigny has vigorously encouraged agricultural production of cash crops, a course pushed by Western aid and lending institutions in the 1960s and 1970s.

While most of black Africa turned into net food importers following independence from European colonial powers, Houphouët-Boigny's efforts prompted Ivorian farmers to record production.

Last year, Ivory Coast produced a record 820,000 tonnes of cocoa, nine times what it produced in 1960 and nearly a third of world production. It is the world's biggest Cocoa producer.

But cocoa prices have tumbled in recent years, and now stand at half those of 1985. In October, Houphouët-Boigny was forced to abandon his promise to support prices for farmers, and he cut promised producer prices for cocoa and coffee in half.

Thousands of people have lost their jobs as the recession swallowed numerous private businesses. Per capita income has fallen 30 per cent in the past decade, according to the US embassy report on Ivory Coast's economy.

"Consumers have cut back on purchases, buying cheaper goods or relying more on food produced at home," the report said.

Critics like Gbagbo say the president is too old and set in his ways to look to industrialisation and other routes to revive the economy.

But Houphouët-Boigny looks more like a man in his 70s and appears alert, astute and far from ready to retire.

The old regime is dying, but it is dying badly," Gbagbo complained.

LAWGOLITA

Water birthing creates ripples

New method in US

SEATTLE (UPI) Water birthing and the use of hot tubs for soaking during labour are creating small but significant ripples in America's baby-bearing practices.

Although difficult to document, probably 3,000 women in the United States have delivered babies in water since 1980 usually submerged up to their chests while squatting in water heated to body temperature to provide a soothing ambience.

While most water births occur at home, either in hot tubs or rented portable tubs, several clinics on the West Coast, including the Seattle Birth Centre, have tubs available in their birthing rooms.

"During labour, most women find it very relaxing and comforting. It reduces the level of discomfort," said Rick Posmantur, who runs the Seattle clinic with his wife Felice Barnow. Both are licensed midwives.

"A lot of women, when they hear about it, are drawn to it immediately. The thought of getting in warm water is attractive to many," Posmantur said.

"In a more subconscious way, water is a very dark, feminine, earth element, so the element of water is very appropriate to birth in general."

Soft lighting and music are often added to enhance the experience, which advocates believe not only provides a more relaxing environment for the mother but also an easier transition into the world for the child than the traditional hospital approach.

A few mothers allow their newborns to swim under water or float to the surface on their own as they continue to be fed oxygen and nutrients through the still-pulsating umbilical cord. But most "catch" their babies as they emerge into the water and immediately bring them to the surface.

"The water is like a natural anesthetic," said Jane Bakken, a Bellevue, Wash., restaurant owner who gave birth to a son in a tub set up in the downstairs family room of her home on mother's day 1988.

"It removes the gravity to a great degree, having the water around your body," Bakken said. "When I got out of the tub, it was 10 times worse. I frankly don't know how women do it."

Many proponents of water birthing claim it is an important bonding medium for mother, child and father, who often joins the mother in the water to

give massage and support.

British Dr. Roger Lichy advocates both parents and infant spend up to an hour in the water after the birth to enhance an emotional connection within the new family.

"Early birth and early childhood experiences have lasting emotional and psychological effects, and birth is certainly our strongest first impression — the first major 'big event' in our lives," Posmantur said.

But Posmantur, whose clinic has performed about 20 water births over the past 18 months, does not think water birthing is for everyone.

"The philosophy is having the women choose what they find most comfortable. I certainly think you can have a gentle birthing process out of water," he said.

Water birthing was pioneered in the 1960s by Soviet researcher Igor Charkovsky, who also experimented with the effects of water on learning, communication and longevity.

Frederick Leboyer, a French physician popularized the idea of gentle birthing, and Michel Odent, another French physician, developed water birthing in the 1970s out of his practice of using tubs to soothe labouring women.

"I think water birthing is a trendy thing," said Dr. Elisabeth Evans, a Bellevue obstetrician. The doctor agrees use of a jacuzzi or shower during labour is beneficial, but contends actual births in water could create problems, particularly an increased chance that the baby might inhale blood or intestinal secretions.

"Water birthing is in the same category as home deliveries, and 99 per cent of time, that's safe," Evans said. "But if there's a one per cent chance of complication from a home delivery or a water birth, it's not worth taking that risk with your baby."

Karl Daniels, maker of a film document about water births, praised warm water delivery in a recent article in the *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery*.

"When a woman experiences intense pain or fear during labour or delivery, her body naturally tenses up and pulls inward — a self-protective response. Yet, birth requires an expansion and release

oke Man



The strangest thing happens to Roy Phillips when he takes a drag on a cigarette... the smoke comes out of his right ear.

Ear, ear smokin' ... ear

LIFE's just one great big drag for super-smoker Roy Phillips.

For cigarette smoke goes straight to his head and comes out of his ear. And nothing he does has helped him kick the habit. He's tried chewing gum, wearing ear plugs and even sucking mints.

"I've given up trying to stop it now," Roy admits. "It's become such a laugh for my family and mates I've decided to grin and bear it."

"It does mean that I have to watch where I smoke though. When people see smoke coming out of my ear they give me some really funny looks. I've even had one old lady tell me that I was too fire."

Now Roy's magic smoking trick has become so popular he performs the party piece for charity. It has already seen him appear on TV and the inscrutable Japanese have been so impressed with the act that they have invited him on an all-expenses-paid trip to Tokyo.

The smoking stunt only works when Roy takes a puff, holds his nose and breathes in. The smoke is forced through his throat, into his inner ear and out through a minute hole in his ear drum.

Roy, from Sedgely, near Wolverhampton, adds: "I have been able to do the trick for as long as I can remember. I suppose I was about 12-years-old when I started smoking. I just held my nose one day and the next moment smoke was streaming out of my right ear."

"It gave me a bit of a fright at first, but after the doctor told me it was perfectly safe, I just carried on doing it."

Roy, who now smokes less than 10 cigarettes a day, reckons that passing the smoke through his ear is actually good for him.

He explains: "At least this way the harmful nicotine doesn't get into my lungs. But I would hate to think what the inside of my ear is like."

"It has also earned my mates a lot of money. One of their favourite tricks is to bet someone that I can pass smoke out of my ear. Of course, no-one thinks I can, so they happily bet whatever they have in their pocket. Now though, we return their money. It doesn't seem fair to take advantage of people after so many years."

The trick has not impaired Roy's hearing either. He can hear as well as anyone, except when he is performing the trick.

"Then I can hear a rushing noise in my right ear and it becomes very loud," Roy adds. "But I'm used to that now."

"In fact the only difference between passing the smoke through my ear and my mouth is simple. I can't taste a thing when it goes through my ear."

Etch a Sketch a toy for all ages is 30

NEW YORK (UPI) As the average life-span of a toy closes in on the tenth of a child's attention span, the Etch a Sketch, that venerable red-drawing machine, has set a mark for longevity equalled by few other playthings.

The flat rectangular box with a TV-like screen made by the Ohio Art Co. celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, and, surprisingly, most consumers will not notice anything new.

"It's a toy for the ages," said William Killgallon, 77, chairman of the company's executive committee and the man who brought Etch a Sketch to America in 1960.

He laughs about the simplicity of Etch a Sketch, but attributes the sale of \$2 million to quality, price — about \$2.99 — and the

creative outlet the toy provides.

"It's one of the all-time classic toys in our industry and it will continue to be a classic," said Killgallon's son, also named William Killgallon and the current chairman of the board of Ohio Art.

David Leibowitz, senior vice-president at American Securities Corp. and a toy industry analyst, does not hide his enthusiasm, calling Etch a Sketch, "a super product, spiffy, super keen."

"The Etch a Sketch is one of the true ones of a kind products in the toy industry. It is every bit as identifiable as Barbie or G.I. Joe or the Frisbee," Leibowitz said. "There is only one Etch a Sketch, much like there is only one of each of these other products."

Etch a Sketch was invented in Paris by

Arthur Grandjean

and was the major toy manufacturer in the next few years with the elder Killgallon.

The inventor's made his way into the United States through a contract with Killgallon.

"If you would on this you would said."

Manufacturing be more difficult and Killgallon easily sold the toy because they made. Two

"Etch a Sketch still is the easiest item to estimate the production requirements for for the year in January," Killgallon said. "It's so dependable."

Despite appearances, Etch a Sketch, which is entertaining its second generation of children, has undergone at least one change.

In deference to toy safety groups, Ohio Art added a clear plastic sheet over the glass screen of Etch a Sketch to prevent it from shattering.

"It's a middle American product, people like it," Killgallon said. "This is the thing that saved us when they tried to ruin us. The people said this is a good toy."

The sameness of the product over the years has been maintained despite the efforts

of the R&D team at Ohio Art, which one year introduced blue and orange frames.

"We've had more people in our R&D department and they want to change the colour, and I would ask what has Heinz ketchup done all these years," Killgallon said.

He laughs when asked how Etch a Sketch works and cannot believe there is someone who has never gone through the tedious process of erasing the entire screen to see the inner workings of the toy.

For the benefit of the uninitiated, Killgallon says a small ball with a point that touches the rear of the screen is attached to two metal bars, one horizontal and one vertical, that are moved by nylon strings attached to the white knobs at bottom corners

of the red frame.

The ball erases the magical silver dust, which is actually aluminium powder with plastic crystals added to prevent it from clumping, that naturally sticks to the back of the glass. Killgallon does not explain how to draw a straight diagonal line on Etch a Sketch.

Ohio Art, which is located in the rural town of Bryan, Ohio, has employed generations of local families, helping the younger members through school with summer jobs, and has made education the theme of the 30th anniversary festivities.

This year Etch a Sketch is giving \$25,000 scholarships to 10 winners of a national sweepstakes and including a college game is with each toy.

A lesson in love... by Jane Fonda

Pupil: Robert De Niro

OSCAR-WINNING actor Robert De Niro spent weeks reading newspapers upside-down to prepare himself for a poignant role as an illiterate man in his latest movie.

It was the only way Robert, who always researches all his part in depth, could imagine reading with extreme difficulty. Although, in the film *Stanley and Iris*, he soon has the benefit of lessons in reading, writing — and love — from Jane Fonda.

Robert's attention to detail is one of the reasons he has become one of Hollywood's hottest properties. He trained in the ring for a year before taking the role of boxer Jake LaMotta in *Raging Bull*.

And he put on a hefty 60 lb and studied hours of 1930's newsreels before attempting to play Chicago gangster Al Capone in *The Untouchables*.

But, for a while, the 47-year-old star was puzzled about how to research the role of an illiterate. After all, he couldn't make himself forget how to read and write. Then he hit on the upside-down newspaper idea.

He said later: "I think it's hard for most people to imagine what it's like not being able to read. We who can, take it for granted."

To remind himself of this before going on set, I would simply turn a newspaper upside-down. Suddenly, a familiar alphabet became incomprehensible."

The story starts with Stanley joining as a cook in the staff captain where Irish works. One day she goes into the canteen nursing a headache, looking for an aspirin.

Stanley cannot read the labels on the bottles and keeps handing her wrong medicines. And finally, after years of hiding the truth of his disability, his secret is out as Iris guesses what is going on.

The cook loses his job at the canteen and cannot forgive Iris, who he blames for his misfortune.

And she, who faces many problems of her own, including nagging debts and the upbringing of her two children alone, feels compelled to help. And so the two become teacher and pupil.

After his role in the comedy *Midnight Run* Stanley is something of a return to De Niro's usual off-beat characters. He said: "I was intrigued by the role of Stanley Cox."

He is hardworking, honest, smart and caring. But he feels

helpless and stupid because he can't do some of the simplest things that other people find effortless. Illiteracy has affected his friendships, his job, his whole life — and he's ashamed of it. So every day is spent pretending he can read and write, in an effort to appear normal. Whereas in reality, he can't do either.

"I had a researcher who compiled many hours of video footage of people who talked very frankly about their problems. They spoke about how they felt and coped when they were unable to read and write, and how life changed for them when they finally could."

"With these videos, I was able to keep going back to specific areas of conversation to study looks, voices and emotions."

This super-professional concentration on getting every part absolutely accurate has been a hallmark of Robert De Niro's career.

For Robert's Oscar-winning performance as Jake LaMotta in *Raging Bull*, he spent a year in the ring, until he really could box like a champion. In that one year, it was reckoned he had become good enough to rank among the world's top 20 light-middleweight boxers.

At the time, the real LaMotta commented: "If Bobby had decided to become a boxer rather than an actor, he would have

made it to the world's welterweight."

De Niro then destroyed muscly physique he had by gorging on pasta and cream, so he could then ageing fighter more.

It's a trick he pulled off the role of Al Capone in *Untouchables*. Robert felt I have to earn the right to play Capone, the notorious 1930's mobster gaining 60 lb and his hairline plucked to balding look.

The final result of the made De Niro almost unrecognisable. Only the mole on cheek gave him away. He said: "I didn't want to gain all that weight. I have worn a wig. But what would I have my face?"

"Only if you get character will people accept you seriously," research into Capone months, and even including out the same shop the gangster bought underwear.

But the actor's training came when he young Corleone in *The Godfather, Part II*. In the only eight words of rest he spoke in Sicilian dialect, he



Jane Fonda plays Iris

Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro read newspapers upside-down to prepare himself for a poignant role as an illiterate man in his latest movie, *Stanley and Iris*. Jane Fonda, who plays Iris, is compelled to become teacher.

mastered for the part. Robert won an Oscar for his performance as the same character Marlon Brando had played when

Corleone was an old man. Robert said: "I didn't want to do an imitation of Brando. But I wanted to make it believable that I could be him as a young man. It was like a mathematical problem."

And Marlon Brando said of Robert: "I doubt if he knows how good he is."

De Niro's last hit, *Midnight Run* had him playing the closest thing to a normal, well-balanced human being yet. He was Jack Walsh, an ex-cop turned bounty-bunter. And as usual, the method actor with the most, just had to research the part.

He spent several nights going on real bounty-hunter raids. He said: "Sure, I went out a few times. The cops made me wear body armour and sign a blood chit absolving the police department, should anything happen to me."

"Then, when the raids went in, they seemed somehow clumsy. A door would be rammed, drug dealers would rush to hide their stuff and jump out of the windows. Some die that way."

"Would you believe, some of the guys we caught and handcuffed would ask me for my autograph?"

Robert went on: "What appealed to me about that movie was the humour. Everyone thinks that all I have is this dark side. I am a bit sick of always being taken seriously."

But Robert has only himself to blame if people get the wrong impression of his character.

De Niro's personal life has become more mysterious, because he no longer gives interviews. He explained: "After I gave an interview, I spent all my time trying to explain what I meant."

"After my first movies, I gave interviews. Then I thought, 'What's so important about where I went to school and my hobbies? What does any of that have to do with acting? Or with



A scene from the poignant romance *Stanley and Iris*.

what goes on in my own head? Nothing."

"I do what I have to do and don't waste my energy by talking. People should go to the cinema, watch my movies and make up their own minds. You can experience only so much fame. It's not a question of privacy but of balance, of what your life's about. It's the way I am. I don't know any other way."

Then Robert, who wears disguises to go out, explained why he became an actor: "At first, being a star was a big part of it. When I got into it, it became more complicated. To totally submerge yourself into another character and experience life through it without having to risk the real-life consequences, is a

cheap way to do things you would never dare to do yourself."

But some of Robert's personal life is a matter of record. Such as his marriage to stunning black actress Diahnne Abbott for three years. They have an 11-year-old son, Raphael, and a daughter, Drina, 21, from Diahnne's previous marriage. But the couple broke up.

Now Robert and his girlfriend, actress Toukie Smith, live in the Tribeca district of New York's Manhattan. De Niro has just bought an old coffee warehouse. He is turning this into the headquarters of his newest project, his own production company.

The building houses offices for

independent producers, film-editing studios, rehearsal space, a 70-seat screening theatre and a restaurant.

De Niro said: "I see this as a centre where writers, directors and producers can work in a great atmosphere. The whole idea of a place where a lot of people like this are together seemed good."

"I decided to go into business so that I could try my hand at producing and directing. I never had full responsibility for a film before and never wanted it. But now I do. I've done one side of the camera. I want to try the other side."

And, being Robert de Niro, he will research his new, real-life role to perfection.

VARIETY

After the confetti blows away...showbiz couples try to keep the sparkle

Successful marriages are the exceptions rather than the rule

SHOWBIZ couples have that extra touch of glamour when wedding bells ring, flashbulbs pop and they whisper their vows. But when the last photographer has gone and the confetti has blown away, they face the same problems as anyone else — trying to keep the sparkle in their relationship.

Long-lasting showbiz marriages are the exception rather than the rule, so how do the successful ones do it?

Deciding one star in the family is enough seems to work for the Reagans, Michael and Diandra Douglas, Georgina and Anthony Andrews, Shakira and Michael Caine.

But that isn't the answer when both partners are building acting careers — like Christopher Cazenove and Angharad Rees, Corbin Bernsen and Amanda Pays, Pauline Collins and John Alderton, and LA Law husband-and-wife Alan Rachins and Joanna Frank.

When Pauline Collins was the toast of LooDoo with the one-woman play *Shirley Valentine* and Broadway was clamouring for her, it was her actor husband John Alderton who persuaded her to pack her bags.

At a family conference at the kitchen table, he told her: "Go for it."

And when Broadway loved her and Hollywood decided to turn the play into a film, the husband who had stayed at home to look after their three children was more thrilled than she was.

But when John was offered the role of Shirley's insensitive husband in the film, they both agreed he should turn it down. "There's a kind of thuggish quality about Shirley's husband which I don't think John has," Pauline says.

The couple, now both outdoing 50, met when they were working on *Emergency-Ward 101* and hit the big time together in *Upstairs, Downstairs* as Thomas the chauffeur and chirpy parlour-maid Sarah.

Now they have an arrangement that, if one is working, the other plays parent with two grandmothers in reserve for when they are both working at the same time.

No-one has been more delighted by Pauline's rise from admired professional actress to international star than the husband who is also her best friend. "I can't get the grin off my face," he says.

Giving family life star billing to their lives is also the formula adopted by LA Law's 35-year-old Corbin Bernsen, who plays Arnie Becker, and British model-turned-actress Amanda Pays, who is 30.

She says: "I always wanted a family but it had to be with the right person. Corbin was the right person and I know it immediately."

Now they have a son Oliver who will celebrate his first birthday in March. Amanda says: "We don't just love each other — we like each other, too. Corbin's my soulmate."

"I love the fact that he's successful. We are both supportive of each other's career. I don't feel under his shadow at all."

"We both think it's important to spend family time together. Otherwise, what is the point of being married?"

Balance

Trust and balance are the keys to marital survival according to Alan Rachins and Joanna Frank, who play LA Law's war-



Ronald and Nancy Reagan: together for 38 years. Nancy said: 'We are very lucky.'



Michael and Diandra Douglas: healing the rift meant moving away from Hollywood



Christopher Cazenove and Angharad Rees: reunions written into his contract



Michael and Shakira Caine: 'I stay around to fend off' women.

ring husband and wife Douglas and Sheila Brackman. They scream at one another on screen then go home for a friendly meal together.

Joanna, who is fortyish, says: "It is a matter of trust. I really trust in our relationship so, no matter what I do when I'm playing a part with Alan, I know it will be OK between us when it is over."

Alan, 46 and her husband for 11 years, adds: "Screaming at one another at work then being friends at dinner is something we just take for granted."

Joanna says: "I am so very difficult that Alan balances me out very well. He is very stable and even in his personality while I'm bouncing off the walls."

"Not that he doesn't do that, too, sometimes. But when one of

us is bouncing off the walls, the other isn't."

Christopher Cazenove (*Dynasty's* Ben Carrington) and Angharad Rees, who won a million hearts as Demelza in the BBC series *Poldark*, look like one of showbiz's golden couples. Again.

But when the news leaked out a year later that they had split up in 1980, everyone who knew

them was shocked. Until they had been hailed as the couple most likely to stay together forever.

It took them four years to get their relationship back together and begin to build a new life out of the ashes of the old, aided by the fact that while their marriage floundered for a time, their friendship never did.

Cazenove, who is 43, says

"What breaks people up is never simple. Never clean-cut. With us it wasn't affairs. It was a combination of little things — the things you don't talk about."

Now, if he is away working, he telephones home every day. If he's going to be away for lengthy periods, he has "weekend" reunions written into his contract.

When he made the series *Ticket to Ride*, across locations

from Paris to Budapest and Malta to California, he came home as many weekends as he could, and Angharad visited every location.

"I think any marriage has its difficulties," he says. "That is part of the course. What is important is that your partner knows where you are — and is involved."

Angharad, who put her own career on hold for a time, has returned to the box alongside Paul Nicholas in a new comedy series, *Close to Home*.

She has put up a notice near the cooker reading: *This is an equal opportunities kitchen*. But she knows there is a limit to what she can expect. And that falls short of depending on Christopher to make a saint of house-husband.

Fortunately, their sons Lynford, 15, and Rhys William, 13, are both away at school. "Christopher definitely wouldn't go for me working while he stayed at home and looked after the children," she says.

Michael Douglas admits he positively enjoys the element of danger and unpredictability in a relationship. And if the reports coming out of Hollywood are anything to go by, his marriage has had plenty of both.

He says: "It must be difficult for Diandra because I work

really hard. Most people's lives are balanced. They work but they have a personal life, a social life.

"But making movies is compulsive, obsessive. One movie takes sometimes a year and a half of your life, working day and night. So your family takes second position because you're always away."

"And you have all this attention focused on you. Diandra handles it but it must be difficult. Then there's all the attention from women — that can't be easy, either."

"Women I've never laid eyes on claim they've slept with me and it can cause a lot of pain. Then there are the lewd phone calls..."

The 44-year-old actor has turned down big bucks and taken time out when he felt his relationship with 32-year-old Diandra might be getting seriously strained. For, like Cazenove, he has been through that once already.

Six years ago they parted. He lost 30 lbs. and did a lot of thinking before he negotiated a fresh start. Part of the deal was moving to New York.

Diandra dropped her political studies and her own career when she met Douglas 13 years ago. She found Hollywood a less than stimulating replacement. "It was like growing up in a town full of dentists," she said.

Defence

And she says she has learned not to be jealous. "It may just be a defence mechanism for my peace of mind," she says. "But my theory is that if Michael decided he loved someone else, I would accept it."

"I wouldn't want to be with someone who didn't want to be with me."

Shakira (wife of Michael) Caine takes a less passive view. She says: "No women are going to get close enough to Michael to take liberties because I stay around to fend them off."

Perhaps no actress who gave up her own career to promote her man's finally got better dividends on the investment than former starlet Nancy Davis who became the second Mrs-Ronald Reagan.

She became First Lady and mistress of the White House for eight years. There were even those who said she ruled the roost. Certainly, she was a power behind the throne.

Couriers strike gold in Europe

Postal blues

BRUSSELS (UPI): Facsimile machines may have bitten into overnight mail services in the United States, but Europe's molasses-like postal systems have spawned a boomtime for couriers on the continent.

Europeans use the fax, of course, for quick delivery of important business documents, but companies such as Federal Express and DHL are still soaring in the old world by delivering small parcels, and more mundane matters like birthday cards, in a timely fashion.

"In Italy, Spain, Portugal and some other countries the service is very slow and very bad," said Laura Mosca of the European Bureau of Consumer Unions. "I don't know if I want to send a letter from Milano to Brussels by post because it can take 20 days or even a month."

Everyone in Europe, it seems, has a postal nightmare to tell, so the European express-mail industry has turned those sleepless nights into gold, grossing \$17 billion last year while handling some three billion items.

Tremendous growth is expected in upcoming years due to the 12-nation European Economic Community's 1992 single-market programme.

"A lot of companies are now looking at their European distribution as one system rather than dealing with distribution only on a national level," said Michael Houthuys, a Brussels-based executive for TNT Skypack, which expects annual growth of 30 per cent in the early 1990s.

The trend has not gone unnoticed among postal authorities in Italy, Holland and elsewhere, just as retaliatory measures taken by those officials have not escaped the eyes of European Economic Community watchdogs.

"The overnight delivery field in an area open to both national post offices and private (companies), and there is no reason to have a monopoly in that area," said a competition official for the 12-nation EEC.

The community's antitrust laws allow officials to intervene when nationalised monopolies are found to distort competition. "The postal services already have a network in place, and can they really say they cannot compete with a private courier starting from scratch? We cannot buy that," the EEC official said.

But postal services, in deeds if not explicitly in words, have been saying precisely that.

Italy's postal service required courier companies to affix postage stamps to their packages, even though the state agency did nothing to help the parcel along. Holland adopted a law in 1988 setting minimum charges on deliveries by courier firms, conveniently exempting the Dutch post office from the floor price.

The EEC executive commissions put an end to both practices in the past few months, following similar intervention in France, Belgium and West Germany. A complaint against Danish postal authorities is also being probed.

So the state postal services, described as devious by Eurocrats in Brussels, are trying to claw back into the overnight market the old-fashioned way: by earnestly competing in the marketplace.

A new overnight delivery firm, Unipost, was formed last year with start-up capital from 21 postal administrations, including most of the 12 EEC systems.

"The courier services to Europe prospered due to the incapability of postal authorities to respond to the marketplace. We are very much a reaction to that," said Unipost marketing director Pieternella de Jong.

"We were created to make postal authorities more responsive to market demand," she said. "The post offices have finally come to the realisation that the market is truly globalised, that they are no longer a local concern."

Unipost uses existing facilities of the national postal services, but hopes to "streamline the actual management of those facilities," De Jong said.

Exile is back and better than ever

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (UPI): By all rights, Exile should have folded. After all, two key members of the successful country band left within six months of one another.

But Exile is back and for all intents and purposes they are as good or better than ever.

Lead singers and lead writers for the group, Les Taylor and J.P. Pennington, parted company in 1988. Taylor has a solo deal with Epic and Pennington wanted to spend more time with his family and get off the road.

But Sonny Lemaire, Steve Goetzman

and Lee Carroll hung in there and got Paul Martin to come aboard.

They signed with Arista and their "Still Standing" album has just been released. Their first single, "Keep It to The Middle Of The Road," is a top-20 country hit.

For the record, Exile has had 10 No. 1 records, including "Woke Up In Love," "I Don't Want To Be A Memory," "I Can't Get Close Enough" and "She's A Miracle."

What effect did losing two high-profile members of the band have?

"It obviously makes things more dif-

icult," Lemaire said. "But let me tell you something. The history of this band has been change. The constant has been change. We have had 20 members in 26 years. So the old adage that nobody is irreplaceable is pretty true with this organization. You just have to find the right people to fill the shoes. When Les left the band we found Paul Martin. The right person, the right time for the right job."

Lemaire, bass guitarist and lead singer for Exile, said he knew the band could be better than ever.

"I don't want to sound boastful or

egotistical but it's just that we discovered there were strengths that we had after they left that we could build upon. We had to prove to the public to the record companies that it was true."

He said they proved it having shows and inviting record executives to listen.

"You also have to prove it to the audiences. It was like every night that we performed we were brand new. We had to go out there and play the old songs with integrity and make them sound like the old songs. The new stuff would have to capture the people and make them say,

"They really do sound great." That's what we did."

There also has to be a "thread of continuity," he added.

"It's not all of a sudden this complete change — all of a sudden you have this sound. It just so happens that Paul Martin sings somewhat like J.P. He has this ability to have the same vocal delivery. We have structured the harmony to sound like the old stuff."

Lemaire was asked if he worries about "burnout" from too much road work.

"I don't worry about it. It's something that every entertainer thinks about."

Playwright Joseph Walker

Caught in a black and white catch 22

CAMDEN, New Jersey (UPI): Playwright Joseph Walker is caught in a black and white catch-22.

Although his critically acclaimed play *"The River Niger"* won five major drama awards, including the Tony and the Obie in 1974, the black playwright and actor hasn't had much success since then in getting his works produced in mainstream theatres.

Those who give money to fund theatre productions perpetuate established white institutions, charged Walker, a bearded man with chiselled facial features and long, expressive fingers. He said blacks financially able to offer their backing are often leery of investing in black theatrical endeavours.

The answer? More black theatrical institutions, Walker said.

"The reason I'm not rolling in dough with the impact of my playwrighting is simply because we have one totally professional equity acting company in the United States that's black," Walker, 54, said.

"That's the Negro Ensemble Company (in New York)," he said. "And of course they can't do it all. The answer is black institutions. I preach that all the time. We need more black theatre."

University's Camden Campus in September as a professor of theatre arts and director of the university's African-American studies programme.

Walker and actress Roxie Roker, best known as Helen Willis, the black wife of the interracial couple on *"The Jeffersons"* television series, are co-starring in a new production of Walker's play *"The River Niger"*, which opened last week at Rutgers for a 13-performance run.

The production marks Walker's first appearance in his own play, which depicts a black family in conflict between generations, sexes, friends and philosophies, yet held together by the bonds of love, responsibility and family.

Most playwrights make the bulk of their money through stock and amateur rights after their play leaves Broadway. There are more than 150 white regional theatres across America, "most of whom only have a token black in their company," Walker said.

The lack of black theatre groups translates into a lack of interest in black plays, Walker said. Talented white playwrights can get rich, while black playwrights can't get produced, he said.

Tennessee Williams' classics such as *"Cat On A Hot Tin Roof"* or *"Streetcar Named Desire"* earn hundreds of thousands of dollars in royalties annually.

But Walker, who has written a new play every year since 1975 but who has had only six of those actually produced, said he has averaged only about 2,000 a year from *"The River Niger"*.

I get a lot of respect from the white theatre, but it becomes also economic," Walker said. "If you've got a company of 15 people and here's a play (*"The River Niger"*) that has 12 characters, all of whom are black it means they would have to job in 12 actors, and they are already paying a resident company."

"That's where the African-American Studies Institute comes in."

One of the first things Walker did when he arrived in Camden, a primarily black-populated, economically depressed urban river town, was to establish an African-American Studies Institute dedicated to the research, preservation and dissemination of black and Third World cultures.

The institute plans to create a centre for black art, music, dance and writing. But one of its first goals is to form a theatre group to produce an annual African-American play, Walker said.

"I have convinced my colleagues to do at least one black classic a year," he said.

Walker sees his role in life as perpetuating black culture, continually chipping away at the notion that blacks are inferior, making sure Afro-Americans get

proper credit for contributions to American culture and ensuring that young blacks — and whites — are not "brainwashed" by believing that racism is a thing of the past.

He said he does not want to teach any more courses where his students are all blacks, because the "best weapon against prejudice is knowledge of the gap." Yet Walker is against a complete homogenisation of cultures.

I do not believe America should be a melting pot where everybody becomes the same, he said. "It's a bad stew when you tell the difference between the steaks and the carrots."

He rails against black "wannabe's," who succumb to trying to be white in appearance and mannerisms.

America is trying to force us into a mold," he said. "I resent that."

Walker, who favours turtleneck and leather caps, also has some mystical leanings. He makes few major decisions without consulting his "oracles" — his wife and another person in New York — and his dogs are named Yin and Yang.

At mysticism carries to his belief as to why he walks the earth.

"The gods," he said. "I'm a vessel. I know that sounds very crazy, but that's what I really feel. I feel that I'm being used properly by the gods and the ancestral spirits."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

MOUTH RINSES, TOPICAL OINTMENTS BEST FOR CANKER SORE

QUESTION: It seems I'm a frequent sufferer of some type of canker sore in my mouth. I get them frequently. They are very painful and sometimes prevent me from eating. What can I do to help control them?

ANSWER: Canker sores are common and almost half the people in the United States have experienced them at one time or another. The technical name for the condition is "apthous stomatitis" and there are a variety of treatments that are used to reduce the pain and help speed recovery.

Some physicians recommend a mouth rinse containing the alkaloid, Sanguinaline, because it can kill bacteria and stop their growth. When infection does occur in canker sores, the antibiotic, tetracycline, may be used to reduce that complication. A dental paste containing a steroid (triamcinolone acetonide) is especially effective when used early in the course of the affliction.

Because these ulcers hurt when in contact with spicy foods, it may be necessary to use a topical anesthetic agent such as lidocaine hydrochloride in a viscous solution. Cauterization of early lesions with silver nitrate or other coagulating agents may relieve pain. Often it may be treatment enough to cover the ulcers with petroleum jelly and allow them to heal by themselves.

There are a variety of other causes that can create painful lesions in the mouth, including some nutritional deficiencies, and it is important that a physician get a good look at your "canker sores" in order to get an exact diagnosis as possible. Then your treatment will be directed at eliminating the cause of these painful mouth sores.

QUESTION: Can you tell me the causes of hoarseness? Can it ever be anything really serious and how can you tell the serious kind from the ordinary kind?

ANSWER: Most hoarseness comes from a simple viral infection of the larynx or voicebox. You can tell the common kind because there's no pain and no difficulty in breathing associated with it. If the hoarseness has come on suddenly and has lasted only for a short period of time, it's probably that it may pass simply by resting your voice and gargling on a regular basis. A postnasal drip may create morning hoarseness, resulting from the accumulation of mucus on the vocal cords.

My favourite gargle for these conditions is a teaspoonful of salt mixed in a glass of warm water (except when extra salt is prohibited by other medical considerations). Frequent gargling brings extra humidity to the larynx and aids in the rapid resolution of the problem.

However, if hoarseness persists for a long period of time, let's say more than two weeks, and doesn't get better with these simple procedures, then your physician probably will perform an endoscopy called an indirect laryngoscopy. That's the procedure by which he uses a mirror to look down your throat and take a careful look at your vocal cords. This special examination plus the presence of other symptoms, such as difficulty in breathing, pain in the throat that may be associated with ear pain, fever, cough that can be associated with sputum that is streaked with blood, all indicate the presence of something more serious than common hoarseness.

LANCILLA

American personal income up

WASHINGTON, March 2, (AP): Personal income, boosted in part by a federal employee pay raise, rose 0.8 per cent in January while consumer spending increased 0.6 per cent, the government reported yesterday.

Consumer spending is watched closely as a barometer of economic health because it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

The Commerce Department said incomes totalled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.60 trillion after rising 0.5 per cent in December.

"The January increase was boosted by cost-of-living adjustments to several federal transfer payment programmes and by a pay raise for federal government employees," the department said.

The 3.6 per cent federal pay raise added \$3.5 billion at an annual rate to government payrolls.

The January income boost was offset somewhat by an increase in personal contributions for social insurance programmes and by a decrease in subsidy payments to farmers.

Consumer spending totalled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.60 trillion following a 0.6 per cent gain in December.

The report showed that Americans' incomes after taxes rose 0.9 per cent, up from December's 0.4 per cent gain.

Americans' savings rate, savings as a per cent of disposable income, rose 5.9 per cent against December's 5.5 per cent.

The key component of the income category, wages and salaries, edged up \$1.62 billion in January following a 1.68 billion gain in December.

Payrolls at manufacturing companies, hit hardest by the Federal Reserve's high-interest policies, fell \$2.1 billion after a \$200 million increase in December.

Iran, Turkey sign trade agreement

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 2, (AP): Iran and Turkey signed an economic letter of understanding today which calls for trade and joint investment, was signed at Tehran airport by Cemil Cicek, Turkish minister of state and Hadi Nejad-Husseinian, Iran's minister of heavy industry.

The pact, under which the two countries will extend mutual credits for trade and joint investment, was signed at Tehran airport by Cemil Cicek, Turkish minister of state and Hadi Nejad-Husseinian, Iran's minister of heavy industry.

Iran said the agreement called for the exchange of consumer and manufactured goods on the basis of cash payment. After current barter agreements expire, it calls for mutual credits of \$300 million for this purpose.

The pact also calls for "joint investment in auto-manufacturing industries including buses, mini-buses and cars."

Credits of \$400 million were agreed to for implementing joint projects, the agency said.

The expansion of co-operation in the fields of agriculture, electricity, power transmission and transportation of goods by road, sea and rail are also included in the agreement, Iran said.

Currency Rates

KUWAIT, March 2, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29202	0.29317
Sterling	0.48834	0.49077
DM	0.17023	0.17160
S.Fr.	0.19451	0.19541
P.Fr.	0.02054	0.02077
Y.Jr.	0.002513	0.002526
Japan	0.001923	0.001934
Bah.din	0.77458	0.77785
UAE Dir.	0.07949	0.07984
S. riyal	0.07786	0.07818
Q. riyal	0.08019	0.08058
O. riyal	0.75829	0.76178

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, March 2, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.276
Sri Lankan rupee	7.400
Pakistani rupee	13.780
Bangladesh taka	9.000
US dollar	29.305
Pound sterling	49.100
UAE dirham	0.07973
Deutsche mark	17.170
Japanese yen	0.01963

Islamic states to set up group

Barter deals to expand trade

ALGIERS, March 2, (Reuters): Islamic states will set up a group to study ways of expanding barter deals among them. Islamic Development Bank (IDB) president Ahmed Mohammed Ali said yesterday.

He told a news conference after the IDB's annual board of governors meeting that inter-Islamic trade should be increased.

"The size of Islamic trade is much lower than it should be. We must use all possible means to increase this trade, and counter-trade is one of these means," he said.

Countertrade includes straight barter deals, agreements for barter trade over a set period of time and counterpurchase agreements in which importing and exporting countries exchange goods worth a set value.

These formulas enable poorer Islamic states to import goods without using up

scarce hard currency reserves.

Mohammed Ali said the IDB had decided after a seminar on the subject on Wednesday to form a working group that would draw up recommendations for member states.

The governors reviewed IDB accounts for the Islamic year 1409 (1988-89), during which it approved finance to member states worth a total of \$874 million.

On Thursday Mohammed Ali signed a \$2.5 million grant to Mauritania to repair damage caused by riots last April, and a \$4.5 million loan to Niger to expand a hospital.

Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche told the opening session of governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which groups 45 countries, that profound changes sweeping Europe should lead Islamic states to rethink ways of protecting their interests.

"It has become necessary for Islamic states to consult to lay down a policy to protect their basic interests through better co-ordination of their economic activities," he said.

"Economic co-operation between Islamic countries will form a basic element of their common will to find a special path of development in this era we all know will see a strengthening of economic blocs."

On the sidelines of the meeting, leading bankers from the Islamic world held a symposium on how Islamic states with non-convertible currencies could boost trade between them through countertrade.

Countertrade includes straight barter deals, trade agreements for barter trade over a set period of time and counter-purchase agreements in which importing and exporting countries exchange goods worth a set value.

These formulas enable poorer Islamic

states to import goods they need for consumption and development projects without using up scarce hard currency resources.

The share of Islamic countries in world exports has slipped to seven per cent in 1987 from 10 per cent in 1976, IDB figures show.

The bank has launched a number of financing programmes to boost inter-Islamic trade, which now accounts for only a small percentage of the total trade of Islamic states.

On Wednesday the IDB signed an agreement to finance a \$2 million Algerian cement purchase from Morocco.

It also granted \$1.8 million to buy medical equipment for a hospital in Israel occupied east Jerusalem, \$6.8 million for two agricultural projects in Mali and \$5.3 million for a rural development project in Tunisia.

Foreign banks carve out new niche

Banks in Bahrain diversify operations

BAHRAIN, March 2, (Reuters): Foreign banks in Bahrain who weathered the Gulf recession of the mid-1980s are carving out a new niche for themselves as higher oil prices generate fresh opportunities in the region.

Western bankers say that although problem loans and competition from local banks have eroded traditional corporate lending, there is more scope now for specialised finance as new industry projects take off and local banks diversify operations.

Although many banks left Bahrain's offshore banking centre when the heavy oil boom days ended, others who stayed have expanded their treasury and credit departments as well as their correspondent and transactional banking services.

"During the boom period international banks were filling a void here — there was a tremendous demand for credit services," Zakir Mahmood, vice-president of Bank of America told Reuters.

"Now local banks have become more sophisticated so if you do what you did 10 years ago you're essentially out of business — but prospects are good for banks who can deliver different

products and specialised financing skills," he said.

Bankers say although major infrastructure projects are now complete, Gulf Arab states are poised to enter a new period of industrial growth as petrochemical, gas and aluminium projects shelved during the recession are revived.

"They also anticipate billions of dollars of expenditure on expansion of oil facilities as Arab Gulf states — who control two thirds of the world's known reserves — step up their output capacity to meet growing world demand."

"We expect huge investment expenditure in the whole Gulf in terms of its oil industry, petrochemicals, gas and aluminium," Mohammed Al Shroogi, general manager of Citibank Bahrain said.

"Foreign banks are positioning themselves for this because they have the expertise to contribute — we see very good opportunities ahead," he told Reuters.

Dozens of banks bid for a \$560 million 10-year loan for aluminium Bahrain intended to finance the first part of a billion-dollar expansion.

Invitations for a \$373-million

16-year loan for new aircraft for Bahrain-based regional carrier Gulf Air also met strong response.

Kuwaiti Arabia and Qatar will both need finance for new aluminium smelters, while Kuwait is planning to spend more than \$2 billion on eight separate petrochemical plants.

"There is a lot of appetite on the part of foreign banks to commit funds for long-term projects," one banker said.

"They are more comfortable with the region's political risk now that the Iran-Iraq war has ended and it appears unlikely new hostilities would spill over to the rest of the Gulf," he said.

Shroogi said Citibank — one of Bahrain's biggest foreign operators — had added 45 staff in the past three years, bringing its total staff to around 150 compared with a peak of 180 in 1983.

He said business volume in the bank's treasury department had tripled during that time.

Foreign bank heads say the introduction of hedging and risk management products such as forward rate agreements, interest rate swaps and currency options in the Gulf over the past three years and fuelled the

upturn in treasury activities.

Correspondent and transactional banking services have also grown in importance as Gulf-based banks and firms continue to seek ways of boosting efficiency and diversifying their revenue.

Bankers say the cost-cutting and streamlining which took place after oil prices — the barometer of Gulf economies — plunged five years ago has improved the area's financial system.

"The market is leaner but a lot more efficient than it was during the boom years," one banker said.

"Firms which survived the crunch have a clear strategy now and the area's financial system is stronger and will be able to support the next 10 years of stable steady growth," he added.

Foreign banks rushed into Bahrain when it first offered offshore banking unit (OBU) licences in 1976.

But Bahrain monetary agency statistics show total OBU assets actually peaked at \$68.1 billion at end-1988 compared with 62.1 billion at end-1983 — the height of the oil boom.

Burden of Third World debt cover is beaten

LONDON, March 2, (Reuters): Britain's banks say they have finally beaten the burden of covering Third World debt but at the cost of a painful profits drain.

They poured money into the Third World in the 1970s, looking to reap profits on interest payments on loans, only to find that these countries now have trouble servicing their debts.

The top four British banks set aside \$4.5 billion (\$7.5 billion) for 1989 to protect themselves against default — taking a giant bite out of profits but curbing their exposure to risky debts.

Assessing a big debt-related drop in profits for 1989, John O'Connell, chairman of Britain's biggest commercial bank Barclays, said: "This brings us to the end of a consistent burden on our profits."

Since 1982 Britain's commercial banks have set aside up to \$15 billion (\$25 billion) to offset any losses on the loans. Major defaults could mean financial ruin for banks which are inadequately protected.

Barclays set aside \$283 million (\$464 million) for debt cover in 1989 against \$110 million (\$167 million) in 1988, shrinking pre-tax profits from \$1.39 billion (\$2.32 billion) to \$692 million (\$1.15 billion).

The 1989 provision means 70 per cent of the bank's bad or doubtful Third World loans are now covered.

Lloyds Bank and National Westminster Bank have covered roughly the same amount of their Third World debt exposure.

"We have put problems — country debt firmly behind us," said NatWest chairman Lord Alexander after the bank's earnings figures were released last month.

NatWest set aside \$290 million (\$1.65 billion) last year, which shrank its annual pre-tax profit by 9 per cent to \$444 million (\$735 million).

"The Third World debt threat is balance sheets has receded," said Rob Barrett, an executive director at stockbroker Goldman Sachs in London.

The developing world has been hit by deteriorating economic conditions at home and rising interest rates abroad. Two of the biggest debtors, Brazil and Argentina, have stopped paying interest on their loans.

Lloyds Bank and Midland Bank, the most heavily exposed of the top four banks, were forced to set aside provisions for developing country debt.

Lloyds, which made the largest provision of \$1.73 billion (\$2.89 billion), reported a pre-tax loss of \$715 million (\$1.19 billion).

Midland, Britain's fourth largest bank, made a loss of \$261 million (\$435 million) after an \$16 million (\$1.4 billion) debt provision after which roughly half of its loans had been covered.

Chinese minister in Iraqi talks

BAGHDAD, Iraq, March 2, (AP): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, apparently hoping to get contracts as part of Iraq's post-war reconstruction and development effort, opened talks with senior Iraqi officials today, embassy officials said.

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy said Qichen held talks with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan aimed at boosting bilateral relations in economic and trade fields.

He declined to give further details.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Qichen held talks with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz on "the means of promoting bilateral relations as well as regional and world issues."

The agency said the ministers reviewed the deadlocked Iraq-Iraq peace talks, the situation in the Middle East and world issues of mutual concern.

"The Jewish issue to Israel was thoroughly tackled," INA said, referring to increased emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and Arab fears they may be settled in occupied Arab territories.

Jordan faces tough talks with IMF

Economic reform

AMMAN, March 2, (Reuters): Jordan, saddled with a huge foreign debt and weary of austerity measures, faces tough talks with the IMF about progress on economic reforms begun 11 months ago.

Shakour Shaalan, head of the International Monetary Fund's Middle East department, was due in Amman today.

The IMF mission failed to complete its review in November because of elections for a parliament which then took weeks to debate the 1990 budget, passed into law on Thursday.

Central Bank officials believe the IMF will approve Jordan's reform efforts and unlock the next tranche of a \$60 million SDR (\$77 million) standby credit approved in July.

"We'll sit with the IMF and maybe about at each other a bit, but we don't foresee any major problems," one official said.

Jordan is in dire need of hard cash to meet foreign payments, despite rescheduling arrangements with official and bank creditors grouped in the Paris Club and the London Club.

The official said Amman had to delay temporarily some arrears on rescheduled debt to West Germany last month.

Western diplomats say the IMF will question the budget's revenue and spending assumptions and seek action

on ending subsidies.

Jordanian officials said they would brief the IMF on reforms already taken and others planned, and urge the fund to take account of their social and political impact.

"I don't think the IMF will be ecstatic about the budget," one diplomat said. "There are cuts, but it's not the bare-bones budget the IMF had in mind. It's too early for the IMF to be too difficult, but they will hit subsidies and military spending."

The budget projects a deficit of 362 million dinars (\$536 million), or 16 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), in line with IMF targets for reducing the shortfall.

Unable to meet payments on its \$6.3 billion foreign debt, Jordan turned to the IMF a year ago. Price rises agreed with the fund sparked riots in April which killed 12 people.

Government changes and moves towards a freer political system defused discontent, but the Finance Ministry is under mounting pressure to avoid further austerity measures.

Public sector wages and pensions have been frozen for five years, though living costs have risen by at least 46 per cent in the last two.

But the government subsidises basic foods, water and electricity. It has allotted 72 million dinars (\$107 million) for food subsidies this year.

Moscow reschedules Polish, Cuban debt

MOSCOW, March 2, (Reuters): The Soviet Union has rescheduled the equivalent of billions of dollars of debt owed by Poland and Cuba over the past three years and written off money lent to Vietnam and several other countries, official figures show.

The figures, in the government newspaper Izvestia, put the Soviet Union's outstanding lending to socialist and Third World countries at \$5.8 billion (ruble) (\$143 billion).

"There is no serious hope of receiving this debt very soon," said Izvestia in a commentary. "It is very likely that the figures under the heading of 'written off' will grow."

The Soviet Union rescheduled 3.2 billion rubles (\$5.33 billion) of Poland's debt between 1986 and 1989 — almost two thirds of the total 4.96 billion rubles (\$8.27 billion) owed by Warsaw.

The second biggest figure, 2.4 billion rubles (\$4 billion), owed by Cuba, the Soviet Union's largest creditor, was rescheduled in the same period.

As of Nov 1, 1989, the date for which all the figures were compiled, Cuba owed the Soviet Union 15.5 billion rubles (25.8 billion), just over 30 per cent more than second-placed Mongolia and Vietnam.

Substantial debt owed by Mongolia, Vietnam, Iraq, Syria and several other Third World countries were also rescheduled during the same period.

Tokyo gossip press wields serious clout in markets

TOKYO, March 2, (Reuters): Sex magazines that once merely titillated Japanese men with schoolgirl and bondage fetishes are now exciting foreign-exchange dealers with market-moving stories.

Twice this week the glossy magazines, normally filled with pictures of kinky sex, printed sensational stories on Japanese politicians that humped around foreign-exchange rates and sent dealers scurrying to newstands.

"The magazines are getting as much attention as the financial pages," said a currency dealer at one Japanese bank.

"You can't ignore them if the rest of the market does."

Nude pictures of young girls and scenes of sexual violence have been a staple of the sleazy magazines. Now they are required reading for currency dealers.

The latest story, which implicated Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal, was obtained by dealers on Wednesday even before the

issue of the magazine that carried it hit the streets of Tokyo.

By the time Kaifu denied the story at a previous scheduled news conference, traders had sent copies of the story to each other and clients by facsimile.

"These stories always get attention here," said Kaoru Kondo, customer dealer at the Security Pacific National Bank. "But since markets overseas are likely to trade off them too, it provides a good opportunity to sell yen."

After briefly falling on the talk, the yen recovered to previous levels.

Earlier in the week, another magazine carried a story linking Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto with a bar hostess.

The story was quickly dismissed, but not before speculating traders again sold yen. Dealers say February 18 national elections have provided fertile ground for rumours. The Tokyo Stock Exchange has fallen nearly 10 per cent over the past two weeks, and the yen has fallen sharply

against the dollar.

Even said officials at the Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry have been forced to pay attention to the lurid offerings of the magazines, which are complicating their efforts to manage markets.

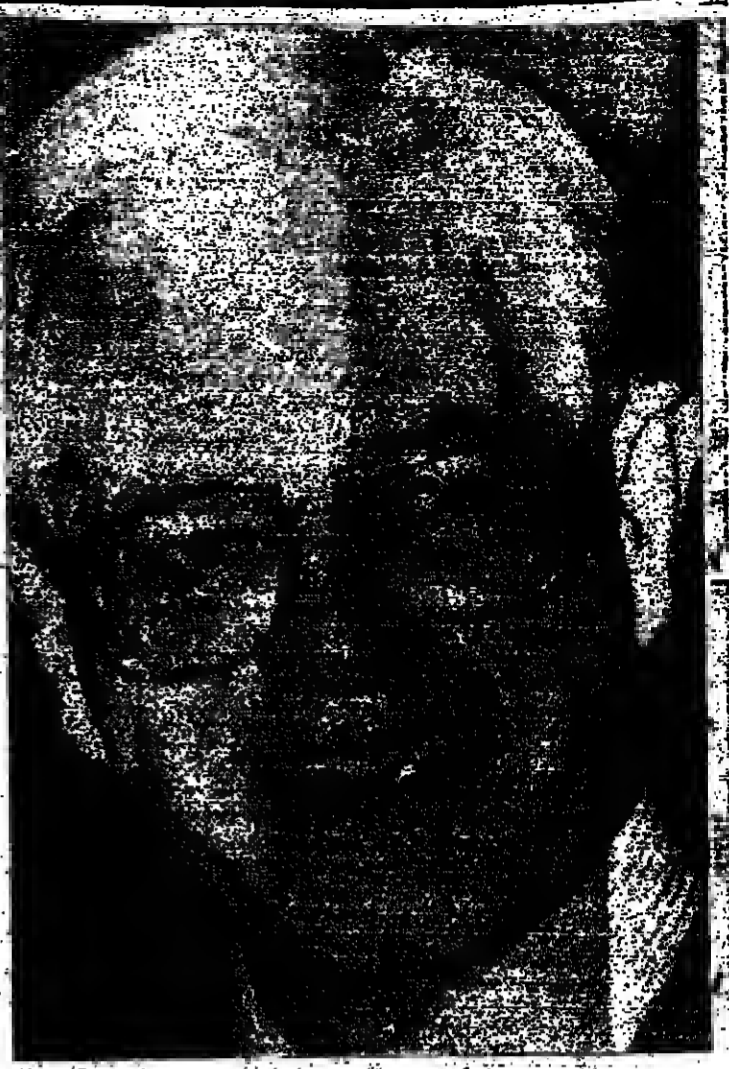
Some dealers estimate the central bank has sold \$9 billion in Tokyo this year, most of it this week, in an attempt to stop the yen from sliding.

Dealers mostly blame the threat of high interest rates and inflated share prices for the recent declines in the markets.

But with markets on edge and traders willing to put at least short-term credence in the magazines, rumours of what will be printed have also been enough to move prices.

"The market is looking for an excuse to buy dollars, and stories like these are as good a reason as any," says Katsumi Asako, chief corporate dealer at Standard Chartered Bank.

Less than a month ago, market talk that



Julian Ogilvie Thompson

Thompson to succeed Relly

JOHANNESBURG, March 2, (Reuters): The head of the De Beers Diamond Group, Julian Ogilvie Thompson, has been named chairman of Anglo American, South Africa's mining and industrial conglomerate, it was announced yesterday.

Anglo American, the country's biggest company, said Ogilvie Thompson will succeed Gavin Relly, 64, who will remain a director, concentrating on the group's international interests.

Ogilvie Thompson, present deputy chairman of Anglo American, will retain the chairmanship of De Beers, an associate company of Anglo American. "I have been chairman of the executive committee of Anglo American Corp. for 13 years and chairman of the board for seven and I think it is high time these responsibilities were handed on," Relly said in a statement.

Analysts said the change was unlikely to have much immediate impact on Anglo American's operations, results or share price.

"The changes at the top had been expected for some time. It shouldn't make any significant difference to the way Anglo American is run," said William Bowler, head of research at stockbroker Ferguson Bros, Hall, Stewart and Co. "Anglo American is a giant in the South African economy, with interest in gold, platinum and base metal mining. It also has shares in about 600 subsidiaries and associates, with interests in banking, paper, motor vehicles, consumer goods, food, ferro-alloys and a host of other sectors."

De Beers controls the sales and marketing of about 80 per cent of the world's diamonds.

Apart from heading Anglo American and De Beers, Ogilvie Thompson, 56, is also chairman of Minorco, the Luxembourg-registered company which houses Anglo American's foreign mining and industrial interests and is jointly controlled by Anglo American and De Beers.

Ogilvie Thompson joined Anglo American in Johannesburg in 1957 as personal assistant to then chairman Harry Oppenheimer.

He was appointed an executive director of Anglo American in 1971 and chairman of De Beers in 1985.

Milled stock average 3487.56			
(227.98)			
Volante 570 and sh			
Yan exchange rate: 149.75			
Name of stock			
Advanced Corp	5390 +	270	
Aigamotto	2390 +	0	
Alps Electric	2100 +	40	
Amada	1890 +	30	
Asahi Chem Ind	1030 +	10	
Asahi Glass	1900 +	10	
C. Itoh Co	975 +	20	
Cauron Inc	1630 +	30	
Casto Comp	1570 +	10	
Daichi Nippon Printing	2150 +	50	
Daichi Soyaku	2740 +	10	
Dainippon Ph	2670 +	110	
Daihatoku Corp	2500 +	50	
Daisho	8910 +	10	
Daiwa Ltd	2090 +	340	
Fuji Photo	1420 +	90	
Fujitsu Ltd	1490 +	20	
Hatoharu Ltd	1720 +	130	
Hatoharu Koki	2020 +	70	
Hatoharu Ltd	1570 +	30	
Hatoharu Metal	1500 +	10	
Honda Motor	1660 +	30	
Ito Yokoh Co	1060 +	20	
Kadama Corp	2000 +	30	
Kawasaki H I	376 +	10	
Kobe Cast Iron	1880 +	30	
Kobe Steel	930 +	160	
Komatsu Ltd	1060 +	0	
Kyocera	2440 +	140	
Maruwa	7950 +	70	
Matsumoto Ind	3640 +	30	
Matsuda	2130 +	10	
Mazda M C	890 +	9	
Mitsubishi Corp		1500	20
Mitsubishi Estate		2000	0
Mitsubishi H I		1000	30
Mitsui Bussan		2500	20
Mitsui O.S.K.		1810	10
Mitsui S.S.		4320	20
Mori Seiki Co		4200	150
NEC Corp		1530	10
Nissan		1420	10
Nippon Shoin		662	3
Nippon Steel Corp		2280	10
Nippon Yusen		1670	10
Nippon Yusen		2030	10
Nippon Yusen		3210	40
Nippon Yusen		1430	10
Nippon Yusen		2200	10
Nippon Yusen		906	15
Nippon Yusen		6940	170
Nippon Yusen		1620	20
Nippon Yusen		1430	10
Nippon Yusen		8350	200
Nippon Yusen		1570	30
Nippon Yusen		70	3
Nippon Yusen		2070	10
Nippon Yusen		6300	110
Nippon Yusen		1770	20
Nippon Yusen		5050	40
Nippon Yusen		4090	20
Nippon Yusen		2000	30
Nippon Yusen		888	6
Nippon Yusen		1110	10
Nippon Yusen		2320	0
Nippon Yusen		1140	20
Provided by Nomura Investment			
Banking (Midwest), Bahrain			

EVENTS



Fine arts festival at the UAS

UNIVERSAL American School's elementary students proudly display their artistic talents during the school's annual Fine Arts Festival held recently at the school.

The school's elementary hallways and library were turned into a veritable

museum demonstrating students' skills in drawing, painting, design and print-making. The exhibit was composed of realistic works and imaginary creations, with many styles derived from artists such as Van Gogh, Seurat and Matisse. Displays featured over 1,500 two-dimensional

pieces, pastels, prints, and other

music.



parents. Rhonda Cox-Mased's class singing and dramatic talents were obvious in their performance of WakedooZoo, and Elementary Music Instructor Keith Felck's original "Hey, look at Kuwait!" sung by fourth graders, was a big success with the enthusiastic audience.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
World Gone Wild
Al Sahmiah
Batman
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Big
Al Firdous
Maa Beii
Fahaeel
Unnikrishanaante
Aadhyathe Christmas
Al Jahra
Land of No Return
Granada
Ninja Champion
Salaikhah
Arabic film
Jleeb
Varavelpu
Ahmadi Drive-in
The Boy Who Could Fly

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.53 am
Zohr 12.00 pm
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 5.49 pm
Isha 7.05 pm

© All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telefax (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

THE MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Sabah Al Kher, news
10.40 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic serial (part 11)
11.26 Sabah Al Kher, news
11.30 Wadan Zaman Al Samt: Arabic serial (part 7)

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadhla: Cartoon serial
5.15 The Young Artist: local children's programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Sheikh
5.45 Night chemists, airties and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: historical serial
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader
7.45 Cultural programme
8.00 Security and Citizens: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Interior, Public Relation Office
8.30 Good Evening and local news

KTV 2

9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daerat Al Abdath: Local programme
10.15 Ila Al Shabab Maa Al Taheya: Arabic serial
11.00 Thaib Al Nashama: weekly Bedouin serial, starring Ghannem Saleh, Ali Al Mufeedi and Rouhi Al Safadi
12.30 News summary
12.35 The World Today via Satellite
12.50 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The Adventures of Raggedy and Andy: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Orphans of the Wild
7.00 No Another Scientific Show: "Tick Tock." A historical look at time division since ancient Egyptians, Babylonians and Rome... The development of watches and clocks since the sand one...
7.30 Hogan Family
8.00 News in English
8.30 Quantum Leap: Sam becomes pilot Tom the husband of a pregnant woman called "Baig." "Tom" is a dead man!!
9.30 The Nuclear Weapons
10.30 Feature film: "When Angels Fly." Starring Jennifer Dale, Patricia Collins. A nurse working in a sanatorium raises suspicion when she spooks around patients' files.
12.00 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

ARTS

Hobby Centre
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 8.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration, maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

Now at the Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club.

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

SOCIAL

Daniella Desert Rally
The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

German-speaking Cultural Association
The next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, March 4, 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Tickets for the forthcoming fashion show will be available. Please make an effort to attend.

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra
THE world renowned 20 member Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Agnieszka Duzmal will be performing at the Kuwait International on 4th and 5th March. The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra has performed frequently in Poland and has toured over 18 European countries as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Tickets on sale at: 2630000 ext 4010.

The British Council
Study in Scotland Education Exhibition: The SAS Kuwait Hotel Ballroom 3-5 March, 4.00 - 8.00 pm daily. Come and meet professors and other senior staff from Scottish Universities and find out about courses and entry requirements. British Council staff will be there to welcome you and answer your questions about studying in the UK. For more information telephone: 252 0067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Liz Lockey.

APPROB essay competition
ASSOCIATION of Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended last date of its essay competition from 15th March to April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in a better Pakistan" is held on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Resolution.

Pakistani students in a group of between 12-15 and 15-18 (senior) are invited to write their Urdu or English, which will be between 1,000 to 2,000 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each for Urdu and English will be awarded to the best in each group with consolation prizes for other participants.

The panel of judges is by Dr M.J. Saleem, Dr. A. H. Saif, Dr. A. H. Saif, Dr. A. H. Saif, Dr. A. H. Saif. For further details, call Tel. APPROB: 242531, 5323751.

Shakespeare's Macbeth
The London Shakespeare Group who have played more than 50 countries who are presently on a Middle East tour, will perform "MACBETH" at the English School, Salwa, on 22nd and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at the Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television, Radio. For ticket reservations and further information call: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5740256/7 or 5731782.

Indian Woman's League
An invitation is extended to Indian women to attend the 15th meeting which will be held on Saturday March 3, 10.45 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact Mrs. S. S. S. at 3727688.

International League
We will meet at our next meeting Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 4.30 pm, programme at 4.30 pm. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge.

Intella Coffee Morning
The next coffee morning for ladies will take place at the Holiday Inn on Sunday, March 4, at 9 am. For further details call: 3727688 ext 207.

Knitting Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 534663.

SPORTS

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified fitness masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available every day. Tennis clinics too-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait
Julie Dent wants you to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

LIFE SAVING COURSES:
With Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise Aerobics, Staying power, Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

Jazzercise
Connie will be resuming classes at Messilah Beach Hotel from 03/03/90. Classes are on Saturday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm & Wednesday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Be there.

ACOI Seven a Side
2nd March: ACOI overseas is pleased to announce their first one day football tournament which will be held on the 2nd March 1990, at the Sour grounds. Draws will be at 7.30 am sharp. For entry forms please contact: Casimiro D'Souza and Menino Leitao.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: An ideal venue for the business lunch or a relaxing dinner. Michael and Elaine, our duo sing for you every evening from 8.00 till midnight. Choose from our lavish international buffet and then sit back and enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet. You can always work off those excess calories at the apollo fitness centre.

Al Andalus Super Club:
Spend your Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic Oriental and International food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy... you deserve it. Friday Family Luoch: A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and our amazing magician. A sumptuous oriental and international buffet complimented by the sounds of our resident band, makes this a day to look forward. See you all...

Le Meridien VERSAILLES:
Take advantage of our great value business lunch which includes starter, main course, dessert and coffee. Or in relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artist you can relish the finest cuisine from nur A La Carte menu, which features specialties from our chef as fish or beef "fou-dee," grilled beef on "braserade" ham and salmon on "shingle" among others. GREEK TAVERNA: Every Tuesday at La Brasserie - Enjoy a little Mediterranean Magic, real Bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialties and atmosphere.

INDONESIAN CORNER:
Every Wednesday at La Brasserie - Enjoy Indonesian cuisine in addition to our daily lavish buffet. Our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you. JAZZ NIGHT: Every Thursday at La Brasserie - Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties. ORIENTAL BUFFET LUNCH: Every Friday at La Brasserie - Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist.



Indian School holds annual parents day

LAST week the Indian School held its annual kindergarten and preparatory school parent's evening. The programme included dancing, singing and acting. The pictures show (top to bottom) nervous performers seeking comfort from their parents, before the show, kindergarten children acting and prep children singing.



Sheraton marketing conference

At the Sheraton Director of Sales, Glory Jarjoura, and Front Office Manager, Atef Wahba, recently attended the Sheraton Marketing Conference for the Europe, Africa and Middle East Division. The closing ceremony was a theme of "1001 nights" and all delegates were appropriately entertained. The conference was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Kuwait. The conference was attended by sales directors of the Middle East division and the director of marketing for the Middle East, Bert Van Walbeek.

BLONDIE



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUM



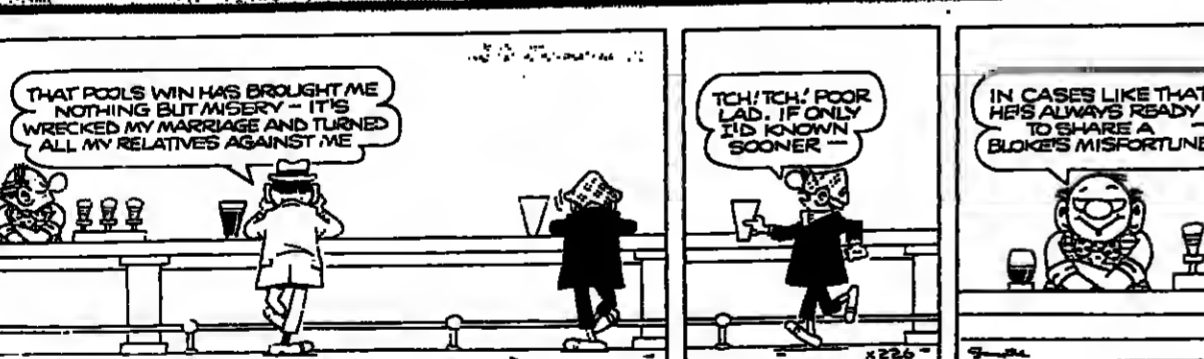
BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



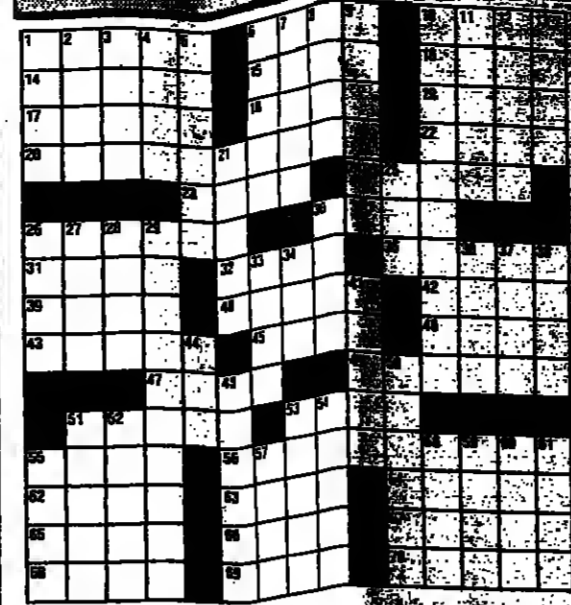
B.C.



HE-MAN



TOE CROSS



ACROSS
1 Shows surprise
8 Living room feature
10 Dill of the movies
14 Ne plus
15 Stuff
16 Foot Khayyam
17 Footrest
18 Christianity, today
19 Goddess of victory
20 Arena
22 Double curve
23 Air
24 "Bring home the..."
26 Chief Justice: 1953-69
30 One of the 3 B's
31 Medley
32 Otherwise
35 Chaplin character
39 List of persons
40 Role for a Shakespearean actor
42 Fletcher
43 Without funds
45 Sound of pleasure
48 Neighbor of Phoenix
47 Container weight
49 Slick
51 Disclosed
53 Wife, in Osprey
55 French or Dutch item
56 Hannah, for one
62 Southern constellation
63 Gulf of
64 Michelangelo work
65 Per
66 California team

DOWN
67 Correct
68 43,560 square feet
69 "With this ring I wed"
70 Singer Mammie
DOWN
1 Surge
2 High Comb.
3 Case
4 Gilder
5 Velled
6 Germ cell
7 Welles of "Kane"
8 Move
9 One-celled creature
10 Early television picture
11 Barcelona
12 Caught
13 Corner
21 Type of railroad car
25 Part of 38 Down
26 Jaded
27 Cosmetic
Ingredient
Stravinsky's "The Fire of Spring"
Appetizer, once
Ginger
44 Tex. school
45 Word with code or tag
47 Hedgehog
48 Nail Smith product
49 Church instrument
54 Large bovine
48 Bulletin
50 Steering device
51 Seed
52 Okay
53 Sweetheart
54 Wash out
55 Modern art movement
57 Oriental nurse
58 Avatar of Vishnu
59 Baker's need
60 Take care of
61 MacDonald's partner

A CONVENTIONAL CALAMITY

Both vulnerable. South deals:
NORTH
♠ K 7 5 4 2
♥ K 10 8 7 3
♦ 7
♣ J 7
WEST
♠ J
♥ 6 5
♦ K J 9 6 4 2
♣ 9 6 5 2
EAST
♠ Q 6
♥ A Q J 2
♦ A Q 10 8 5 3
♣ 4
SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 8 3
♥ 9 4
♦ Void
♣ A K Q 10 8 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Dbl
Pass 5 ♦ Pass Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
Every once in a while a reader asks us whether we recommend MUD opening leads. That's an acronym for Middle, Up, Down, and refers to the order in which opening leader plays three worthless cards—lead the middle, next play the higher card, then the lower. We have always inveighed against it and this hand from a tournament in Italy lends weight to our position.

ing-club system, which accounts for South's opening bid. The jump to six spades is not as insane as one might think. Since North was unlikely to have anything in diamonds, the chance of that player holding a key card in hearts was excellent. If that were not the case, a diamond lead might give South a chance to get rid of dummy's heart losers on the long clubs.
West led the six of hearts and South followed the trick with the four as East's jack won. East-West were using MUD and, afraid to lead was from 9 6 5, East elected to take the "sure" set by shifting to the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and then discarded four hearts on his good clubs. A heart ruff on the board was the 12th trick.
Note that the standard top-of-nothing lead would be as confusing. Declarer would then have played the nine of hearts under East's jack and East can't be sure whether the lead is from 6 5 4 or 6 5 alone.
The modern method of leading—third best—solves the problem here. With 9 6 5 West would lead the five; with 6 5 4, the four. Thus, the lead of the 6 can be only a singleton or doubleton, so no falsecard by declarer can cloud the picture.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be more than usually inclined to love and assist things. Using a little more common sense you will be able to avoid doing something foolish. You would be wrong to say anything and then do another. Be reliable.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You should make sure you do not do anything which you would find reprehensible. Show a little more goodwill and forbearance when dealing with others. Keep your eyes very much on the road whether walking or driving. Be tolerant.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

A tax matter will be a nuisance but you must not try to 'sweep it under the carpet'. You should make sure you get enough rest but that is no excuse for indolence. Take really good care of your health. Be practical.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Do not allow yourself to believe that all is as you would like to be. You are rather too easily discouraged and should try to summon up a little more faith in yourself. Do not be too proud to act on good advice. Be alert.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

As inclination to leave things until the last minute should be combated. You must avoid consulting essentials with trivialities and concern yourself more with the former. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 26. Something you have learnt recently will stand you in good stead.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

You are liable to lose sight of your objectives and should take steps to bring them back into focus. You will be able to overcome an obstacle, but you must be prepared to encounter yet others. Check your figures, you are rather liable to miscalculate. Be reasonable.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You are more liable to stomach upsets and should beware if eating unfamiliar foods. You are rather given to exaggeration and should do what you can to stay on more even keel. Do not be too easily convinced that what you would like to believe actually is the case.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Avoid getting into an argument and try to tolerate it if you do. And if someone loses his temper do your utmost not to follow suit. You will learn the lesson of experience only if you really want to. Be resourceful.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Avoid being emotional, which does not mean not expressing your affections. Something that has been puzzling you will now become clear. Do not do anything that you know is unjust or unfair. Be tactful.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

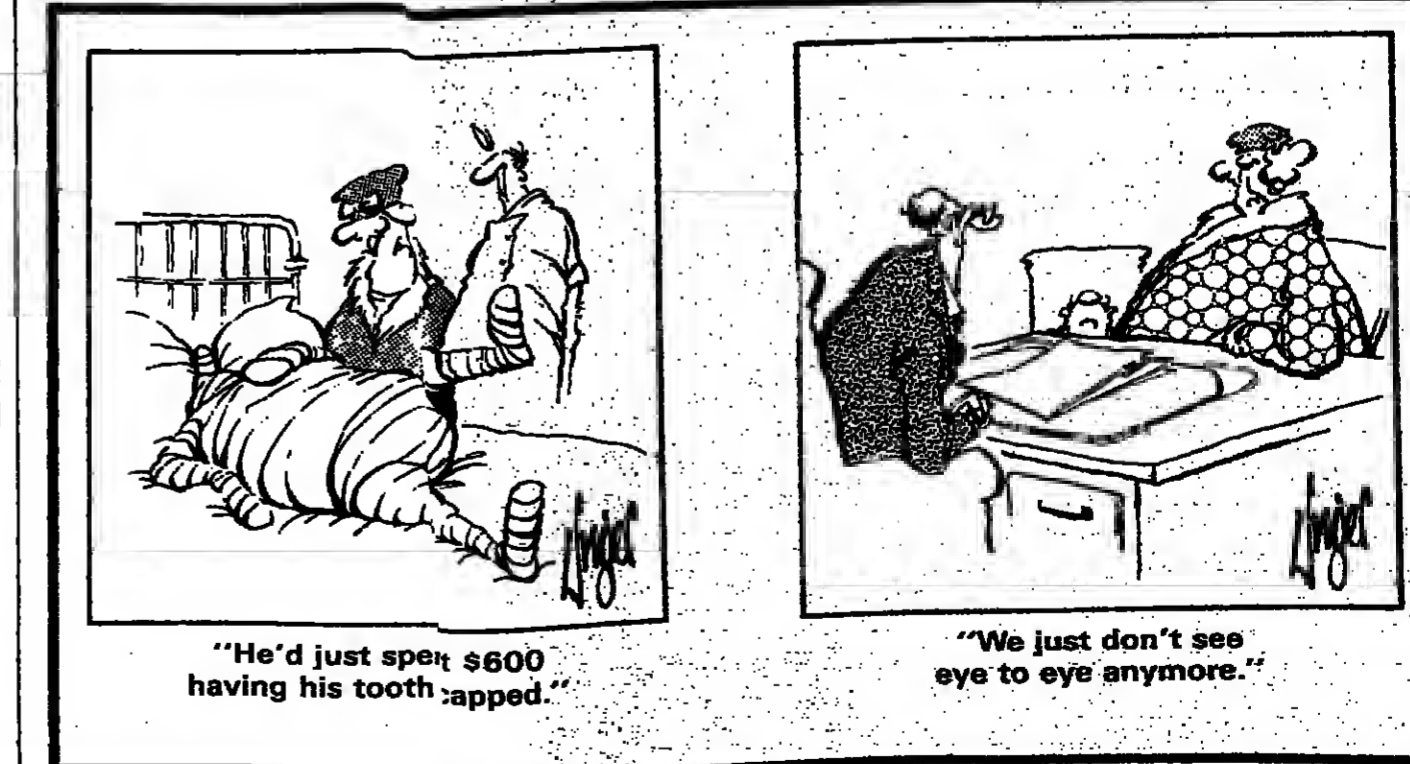
An encounter you had been anticipating for a long time now will be smooth. Indeed you may have made a new friend. However, do not be too quick to take him into your confidence. Be respectful.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You will have a good opportunity to do something that has not been possible for a long time now. You would do well to be satisfied with a little less. If you go for all or nothing it could well be nothing. You will have reason to be pleased with yourself. Be sensible.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

You will be in good form but you must resist acting on impulse. You should not allow yourself to be intimidated but nor should you try to intimidate others. Leave your partner in no doubt about your love. Be objective.



"He'd just spent \$600 having his tooth capped."
"We just don't see eye to eye anymore."

SPORTS

Winter Olympics

LATISCHNE, Switzerland, March 2. (Reuters) Six cities from as far apart as Asia, Europe and the United States are vying to stage the 1998 Winter Olympics, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced yesterday. The six — Aosta, northern Italy; Jaca, Spanish Pyrenees; Nagano, northwest of Tokyo; Ostersund, northern Sweden; Salt Lake City, Utah, US Rockies; and the Soviet City of Sochi, a resort on the Black Sea, had all submitted their names to the IOC by the March 1 deadline.

NBA games

NEW YORK, March 2. (Reuters) Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday.

Charlotte	118	LA Clippers	109
Washington	105	New York	100
Memphis	114	Orlando	100
Detroit	99	Washington	85
Phoenix	112	Phoenix	104
Denver	131	Cleveland	125
Utah	119	Portland	102

Squash rankings

LONDON, March 2. (Reuters) Jansher Khan has been deposed as world number one by fellow Pakistani Jahangir Khan on the latest International Squash Players Association ranking list issued yesterday.

Future Olympics

ROME, March 2. (Reuters) Future summer Olympics will be limited to 15,000 athletes and officials, International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Wednesday.

Sprint champion

LONDON, March 2. (Reuters) East Germany's double world sprint champion Silke Moeller is to train for a fourth under the guidance of British athletics coach John Innes.

Libel suit

LONDON, March 2. (Reuters) A jury awarded Olympic javelin gold medalist Tessa Sanderson £30,000 (\$30,000) libel damages on Wednesday over newspaper reports that she stole another woman's husband. The 33-year-old British athlete, who won the gold medal at the 1984 Olympics, sued Mirror Group newspapers and two journalists over stories in the Sunday Mirror and the People.

Olympic marathon

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 2. (Reuters) Florence Griffith-Joyner, who retired from athletics after winning the women's 100 and 200 metre gold medal in Seoul, has taken up marathon running and hopes to run in the event at the 1996 Olympics. Griffith-Joyner also told a sports dinner on Wednesday she was negotiating to play the part of a female James Bond in a yet to be announced film.

Rowe suspended

INDIANAPOLIS, March 2. (Reuters) Former US 400 metres champion Mark Rowe has been suspended for two years after testing positive for use of a banned substance, the US athletics governing body announced yesterday.

Meta player

NEW YORK, March 2. (Reuters) New York Mets star baseball outfielder Darryl Strawberry was released from an alcohol rehabilitation programme yesterday, the club said.

Sumphus charged

TACOMA, Wash., March 2. (Reuters) Former World Boxing Association junior-welterweight champion Johnny Sumphus faces up to 90 days in jail if convicted on a drug charge filed after his arrest in Tacoma, a sheriff's spokesman said yesterday.

Shaw leaving

ROME, March 2. (Reuters) American Brian Shaw is leaving Italian basketball team Messaggero Roma to return to his former club, the Boston Celtics, where he made his reputation as an outstanding playmaker.

Doral Open

MIAMI, March 2. (Reuters) Jim Gallagher used an eagle and five birdies to post a seven-under-par 65 for a one-stroke lead after the first round of the \$1.4 million Doral Open Golf tournament yesterday.

Woosnam ahead

MARBELLA, Spain, March 2. (Reuters) Ian Woosnam made a stylish return to international golf yesterday by finishing one stroke behind Ryder Cup team-mate Mark James on the first round of the Mediterranean Open at Las Brisas.

Kemper Open

MAUI, Hawaii, March 2. (Reuters) Rain and wind made the going tough during the first round of the \$300,000 Women's Kemper Open yesterday. Kristi Altieri, Mizzi Edge and Patty Sheehan made the best of it. Altieri, Edge and Sheehan all toured the wet and windy Wailea resort course in three-under-par 68 to share the lead.

Lamb named man of the Match England beat West Indies

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 2. (Reuters) England brought off one of the biggest upsets in recent cricketing history when they beat the West Indies by nine wickets in the first Test yesterday.

It was England's first victory over the West Indies since the Trinidad Test of 1974.

For Viv Richards it was not only his first Test defeat at home as captain but also the first time since 1977 he has played in a losing West Indies side in the Caribbean.

West Indies were 29 ahead overnight with only two second innings wickets in hand and lasted a mere 20 balls before being all out for 240.

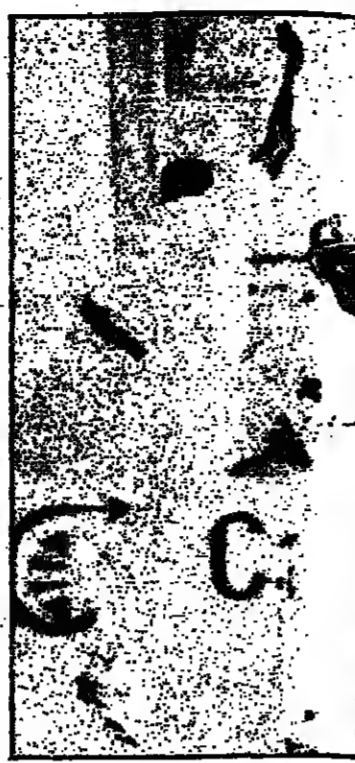
England reached the target of 41 in the 17th over with Wayne Larkins hitting the winning run off Ian Bishop to end on 29.

After a blank day on Wednesday because of rain, play yesterday started on time, much to the relief of England who had started the Test as 20-1 outsiders with London bookmakers.

The West Indian second innings closed after Patrick Patterson was needlessly run out when Malcolm Marshall called him for a non-existent single to David Capel at mid-wicket.

Patterson was out by half the pitch as Devon Malcolm took the balls off at the non-striker's end.

In the previous over, Gladstone Small claimed his fourth wicket of the innings with his eighth ball of the day when he knocked out Courtney Walsh's off-stump with one that came back off the wicket.



Small (left) leaps and raises a clenched fist after dismissing Walsh.

Marshall, who rather surprisingly had opted not to try to keep the strike, was left on eighth not out. Small returned the best bowling figures of four for 58.

Under cloudless skies and in front of a tiny crowd — the majority English holidaymakers — England recorded their first victory over the West Indies in the last 30 Tests with the game ending minutes before lunch on the final day.



Larkins raises his bat after hitting the winning run.

England's victory was only their second in their last 26 Tests against all opposition since January 1987. During that run their only other success was against Sri Lanka.

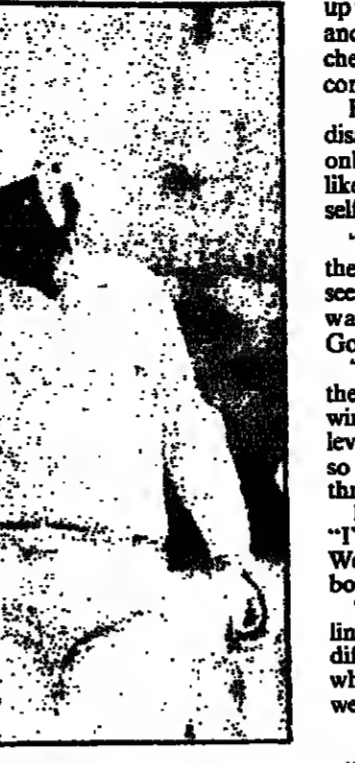
Gooch said: "I am really elated. It's tremendous to get one on the bag."

Gooch, who did not see the winning run, said the remarkable victory was "one of the sweetest moments of my cricketing life."

He said the fact England had been labelled "no-boppers" had made them determined to prove the critics wrong.

"We were given no chance, with people saying it would be another 5-0 and we've proved them wrong."

"We're on a high now but we know there could be lows in the series and that the West Indies will be back. But I was brought



Bishop (right) dismisses Walsh.

close to the stumps. With only six runs needed captain Graham Gooch turned Bishop off his legs and was superbly caught by Gordon Greenidge for eight.

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"We were given no chance, with people saying it would be another 5-0 and we've proved them wrong."

"We're on a high now but we know there could be lows in the series and that the West Indies will be back. But I was brought

up to win under (former England and Essex captain) Keith Fletcher and that's how I plan to continue on this tour," he added.

He said he was "very, very disappointed" to be out with only six needed and would have liked to him the winning run himself.

"I would love to have been there at the end and in fact didn't see the winning run being hit as I was in the dressing-room," Gooch said.

"I was packing my bag. I heard the shouts when Wayne hit the winning boundary which took us level and then stood on a bench so I could see the scoreboard through the window."

Richards was stoical in defeat: "I'm quite positive we'll be back. We played badly and England bowled well," he said.

"They had success with the line they bowled. Sometimes it's difficult to motivate yourself when you keep winning but now we need no motivation."

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 164 (A. Fraser live for 28)
ENGLAND first innings 364 (A. Lamb 132, R. Smith 57, C. Walsh five for 88)

WEST INDIES second innings (overnight 229 for eight)
G. Greenidge c Hussain 36
D. Haynes b Malcolm 14
R. Richardson lbw b Fraser 25
C. Best c Gooch b Small 64
C. Hooper c Larkins b Small 8
V. Richards b Malcolm 37
J. Dujon b Malcolm 15
M. Marshall not out 8
I. Bishop c Larkins b Small 3
C. Walsh b Small 2
P. Patterson run out 2
Extras (b-14, lb-10, w-1, nb-1) 26
Total 240

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-69, 3-87, 4-112, 5-192, 6-222, 7-222, 8-227, 9-237.
Bowling: Small 22-6-58-4, Malcolm 21-3-27-4, Capel 15-1-50-0, Fraser 14-4-31-1.

ENGLAND second innings
G. Gooch c Greenidge b Bishop 8
W. Larkins not out 29
A. Stewart not out 0
Extras (lb-1, nb-3) 4
Total (six wickets) 41

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-38, 3-66, 4-218, 5-233, 6-246
Bowling: Patterson 3-1-11-0, Bishop 7-3-0-17-1, Walsh 6-0-12-0.
Result: England won by nine wickets.

Second Test; Georgetown, March 10-15.

Crowe takes Kiwis to win over Indians

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, March 2. (Reuters) New Zealand ended a run of 11 successive losses against India in one-day cricket yesterday with a decisive win anchored by opening batsman Martin Crowe.

Crowe scored only his second century in 83 one-day international appearances to help New Zealand to a 108-run victory in the first match of a triangular series also including Australia.

New Zealand scored 246 for six wickets in an innings shortened to 47 overs after a late start to allow Dunedin's Carisbrook Ground outfield to dry from overnight rain.

Crowe, voted Man of the Match for his 104, partnered Ken Rutherford in a 152-run fourth wicket stand — a New Zealand record for one-day cricket.

Set a rate of more than five runs an over to win, India tumbled to 65 for six by the 13th over and the New Zealand attack finally dispatched the tourists for 138.

Apart from Workeri Raman, who put on some quick early runs, none of the Indian batsmen had the sort of grit shown by Crowe.

Moved up the order to open the batting, Crowe made his 104 from 135 deliveries, including six fours and a six. He came together with Rutherford when New Zealand were struggling at 66 for three wickets.

Rutherford hit an attractive unbeaten 78 off 75 balls.

Indian pace bowler Anil Wasson picked up the wickets of captain John Wright and Andrew Jones off successive balls when the New Zealand score was 38. Mark Greatbatch became Wasson's third victim when he was caught by Ajay Sharma for 13.

The New Zealand attack, with three debutant seamers, Shane Thomson, Stu Roberts and Gavin Larsen, bowled consistently.

The bowlers were well supported in the field with Greatbatch and Wright coming up with athletic slip catches to dismiss captain Mohammed Azharuddin for 12 and opener Raman for 32.

Morrison took quick wickets with the new ball while Thomson and Larsen struck in their first overs to send India reeling. Their late recovery was only marginal as the team had fallen well behind the asking rate.

Morrison and Thomson were the home side's most successful bowlers with a bag of three wickets each. Thomson went one better in creating a run out dismissal of non-striker Manoj Prabhakar.

Indian cricket manager Bishen Bedi apologised today for his team's "diabolical" loss to New Zealand.

Bedi said he was disappointed with his team's manner of defeat, saying it batted in a careless manner and virtually handed New Zealand the victory.

"The run rate of 5.25 was well within our grasp," Bedi said. "I am disappointed but not disheartened, but I have no excuses whatsoever. We were outbatted, outfielded and outbowed."

Bedi said there would be lot of soul searching before India faced Australia at Lancaster Park in Christchurch tomorrow.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND
J. Wright c Kapil Dev 23
b Wasson 23
M. Crowe b Prabhakar 104
A. Jones lbw b Wasson 0
M. Greatbatch c Sharma 13
b Wasson 78
K. Rutherford not out 78
I. Smith b Kapil Dev 4
S. Thomson b Prabhakar 3
Extras (b-5, lb-10, w-5, nb-1) 21
Total (six wickets) 246

Did not bat: M. Snedden, D. Morrison, G. Larsen, S. Roberts.
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-38, 3-66, 4-218, 5-233, 6-246
Bowling: Morrison 8, 1-2-43-3 (w4, nb1), Roberts 4-0-26-0 (w1), Thomson 6-1-19-3 (w2), Snedden 8-1-28-1, Larsen 6-1-14-1.

Wales, France strive to stem rugby decline

LONDON, March 2. (Reuters) Wales and France, the giants of European Rugby Union over the past 20 years, strive desperately tomorrow to stem the steep decline in their fortunes.

Wales meet unbeaten Scotland at Cardiff Arms Park while France host Ireland at Parc des Princes in the fourth round of the Five Nations Championship.

In Cardiff, Ron Waldron takes over as Welsh coach with a mandate to instill the drive and physical presence that his club side Neath bring to his game.

He follows John Ryan whose record of only two wins from nine matches bears eloquent testament to the sorry state of the current national side.

"We haven't considered the opposition," Waldron said this week. "We have got to look at our basics and build up from there."

"If we don't get that right the opposition won't have anything to worry about. We are all optimistic and there is a little bit of a buzz about the side."

Wales who ruled European rugby during the 1970s, have been painfully slow to recognise the need in the modern game for

fit, fast forwards and have also suffered badly from the defection of several leading players to professional rugby league.

The selectors have responded to the humiliating 34-6 defeat against England by picking seven new players, including five forwards in an attempt to inject some mobility into the side.

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Wales start underdogs against a confident Scots side who destroyed France 21-0 in the last round.

But the French should find their campaign on a winning note against an Irish side who have not won in Paris for 18 years and have little to offer except unquenchable enthusiasm.

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Fouroux has guided France to two Grand Slams plus the 1954 World Cup final.

But he has always had detractors in France, who accuse him of shattering the tradition of French free-running style.

Wales and France, the giants of European Rugby Union over the past 20 years, strive desperately tomorrow to stem the steep decline in their fortunes.

Wales meet unbeaten Scotland at Cardiff Arms Park while France host Ireland at Parc des Princes in the fourth round of the Five Nations Championship.

In Cardiff, Ron Waldron takes over as Welsh coach with a mandate to instill the drive and physical presence that his club side Neath bring to his game.

He follows John Ryan whose record of only two wins from nine matches bears eloquent testament to the sorry state of the current national side.

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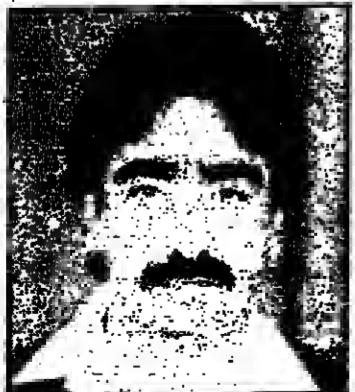
Gulf Group enter semifinals

GULF GROUP entered the semifinals of Amar Trophy cricket tournament by two consecutive victories over Rajasthan Cricket Club on Friday and Lions Cricket Club on Sunday.

In the first match, Gulf Group beat Rajasthan Cricket Club by four wickets. Rajasthan won the toss and elected to bat. They scored 115 runs in 25 overs. Their main scorer was Arif who made 36 runs. For Gulf Group, Jalal Parkar was the most successful bowler taking 3 wickets for 10 runs off four overs.

Gulf Group reached the target in only 19.2 overs, losing only six wickets. Mushiaque Dadarkar was the highest scorer who made a brilliant 48 with the help of five boundaries. For Rajasthan, Jabbar captured 2 wickets for 18 runs.

In the second match, Gulf won the toss and elected to bat and made 163 runs for 7 wickets in 25 overs. Their highest scorers were



Basha: four wickets

Jalal Parkar (35 not out) and Mohsin Bin Shaab (30), with the help of 4 fours.

For Rajasthan Farooq was the most successful bowler with 3 wickets for 18 runs.



Mushiaque: 48 runs

with 24 runs. Lions Cricket Club could manage to score only 36 runs in 21 overs.

Salim Basha was the most successful bowler for the Gulf Group capturing 4 wickets for 12 runs off 5 overs. Mustafa and Mohammed Ali took 2 wickets each. Excellent fielding by Salim Basha also contributed to the victory for Gulf Group.

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Khalifa fights back for 3rd straight Masafi Rally victory

DUBAI: Suhail Khalifa of the UAE emerged as a comprehensive winner of the 11th Masafi 4WD Rally title yesterday after a brilliant second day fightback clinched his third successive crown in the Middle East's most demanding motorsport event.

Driving the Land Rover that also

took him to victory in 1988 and '89, Khalifa reached the finish more than 50 minutes clear of Sami Mahmood's Land Rover.

Third place went to Middle East kart champion Midhat Hanna and co-driver Mohammed Hareth in a Range Rover with early leaders Mohammed

Tamjeed and Alison McLoughlin in a Land Rover finishing a further six minutes behind in fourth.

By becoming the first man in the rally's history to win it in three consecutive years, Khalifa now takes permanent possession of the coveted gold-plated Masafi trophy.

"I'm relieved to have won after all the problems we faced last night," he said after he and co-driver Mubarak Al Haiiri of Qatar received the trophy from Mr Abdul Rehman Al Ghurair, managing director of the Masafi Mineral Water Company.

Khalifa's decisive victory climaxed a

brilliant performance by the popular UAE star after he overcame a host of technical problems at the end of the stages (left him off the lead in the second day).

As many of the punishing conditions of the rally and

by early morning had forced his way into the top three. Two stages later, he was in the lead and heading for a resounding victory.

Provisional results: 1. S. Khalifa (UAE)/M. Al Haiiri (Qat) — Land Rover — 8h:12 min:44 sec; 2. S. Mahmood/F. Chab (Leb) — Land Rover

— 9:03:47; 3. M. Hanna (Jordan)/M. Hareth (UAE) — Range Rover — 9:12:46; 4. M. Tamjeed (UAE)/A. McLoughlin (UK) — Land Rover — 9:18:36; 5. M. Ziegler (US)/M. Boudan (Can) — Range Rover — 9:33:40; 6. R. Nicholson/P. Watson (UK) — Range Rover — 10:00:00.

Iraq meet UAE today

Oman hold Bahrain



Above and below: action shots of the match.



OMAN and Bahrain battled to a goalless draw Thursday in the 10th Arab Gulf Cup football tournament.

The Omani team put Bahrain under tremendous pressure, especially in the second half.

but Bahrain's 34-year-old keeper Hamoud Sultan was rock steady to repel dangerous Omani breakaway moves.

Abdullah Hamdan, making his Gulf Cup debut, had a stinging shot from the top of box saved by a diving Sultan.

Bahrain attacked on all cylinders but lacked proper finishing.

"We played well, attacked the rival goal with persistent forays but we missed a player to convert our domination in front of the Omani goal," Bahrain's West German coach Uli Maslo said.

Oman's goalkeeper Amor was twice stretched in the second half by Bader Swar and earlier in the first half by Ibrahim Issa.

The championship, which opened Feb 20 at Kuwait's Peace and Friendship Stadium continues to March 9. The event is held every two years, with competing teams from the seven Arab countries of the Gulf.

Today, Iraq meet the United Arab Emirates in a very important match of the tournament.

Holders Iraq have collected three points from their previous two fixtures, one of them a draw against hosts Kuwait, while the UAE has collected only two points by drawing both matches they played so far.

The UAE has been the subject of sharp criticism because of their mediocre performance, particularly for a team that has qualified for the World Cup finals. If UAE continue with their performance they will face a very tough match against the strong Iraqis.

With their morale high and all players fit, the Iraqis are expected to put on a very spirited performance. A win in today's match will put them clear on top of the participating teams.

Meanwhile, the organising committee has decided to reduce the ticket rates by 50 per cent to encourage more attendance at the games. The prices of tickets now become: KDI 500, 1,000 and 500 fils only.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	G	A	Pts
Kuwait	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Iraq	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Oman	3	0	2	1	2	1	2
UAE	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Qatar	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Bahrain	4	0	2	2	0	2	2

Thys replaces Meeuws as Belgian coach



Thys gets the job.

BRUSSELS, March 2. (Reuters) Belgian national soccer coach Walter Meeuws has been sacked and replaced by Guy Thys who guided Belgium to the semifinals of the 1986 World Cup.

A spokesman for the Belgian Soccer Federation said yesterday Meeuws' dismissal followed a string of disappointing performances by the Belgian team, one of the seeded nations for the World Cup finals beginning in Italy in June.

Belgium have not won in their last four matches, drawing against Switzerland, Luxembourg and Sweden, and losing 2-0 to Greece.

"Public confidence was out there any more," the spokesman said, adding that Meeuws' departure had been by mutual agreement.

Meeuws, 38, a former defender with Standard Liege, worked under Thys as assistant coach for a year before taking over from him at the beginning of the season when Thys became national co-ordinator.

Liverpool set for return to top

LONDON, March 2. (Reuters) Liverpool are poised to regain the English soccer's First Division tomorrow if they can overcome a Millwall side fighting a desperate battle to avoid relegation.

The London club, who sacked manager John Docherty two weeks ago, have won only one of their last 20 League games and their single away victory was on the opening day of the season.

Liverpool, whose return to the top may be for 24 hours only as leaders Aston Villa play at Coventry on Sunday, are unlikely to have their 11-match unbeaten run disturbed, although Millwall, second from bottom of the 20-team division, drew at Anfield last season.

Millwall's Ireland international striker Tony Casciaro is hoping for a shock result to provide the springboard for the club's First Division survival.

"We feel we need just one good result behind us and that could spark us off again because we were playing a lot of good football at the start of the season and obviously we feel we're good enough to stay up."

"It's now becoming urgent to get a good result but if we can take a leaf out of our book from last year then it's not impossible to get it at Liverpool."

"We drew 1-1 up there last season and had enough chances to win. We've got nothing to lose and I think we might just shock everyone," he said.

Victory is also imperative for Manchester United. They have won only once in 13 outings and are four points ahead of Millwall and just two ahead of third-

from-bottom side Luton who they entertain tomorrow.

Luton, revitalised by new manager Jim Ryan, have lost only one of their last five League games.

Results

Results of British soccer matches on Wednesday:

English Football Association (FA) Cup

Millwall, second replay: 0-0

Barnsley v Everton postponed

Oldham v Everton postponed

Brighton v Everton postponed

Newcastle v Everton postponed

St. Michael's v Everton postponed

Stirling v Everton postponed

Stirling play either St. Mirren or Clydebank in quarterfinal on March 17

Scottish Division One

1. Partick 0

2. Forfar 1

3. Dundee 0

4. Dundee United 0

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Egypt joins African Cup tournament

CAIRO, March 2. (Reuters) Egypt decided today to take part in the African Nations Cup, reversing an earlier decision to pull out for fear of attacks by angry Algerian soccer fans.

The country's Middle East News Agency said the team was leaving for Algeria today after the cabinet held a special meeting over the weekend to discuss the matter.

The issue had threatened to worsen relations between the two states which in November 1988 resumed diplomatic ties broken over Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Officials have said they feared Egyptian players would be attacked by Algerians upset by their defeat in Cairo last November in an African soccer qualifier. Egypt's victory won it a place in this summer's World Cup finals in Italy.

In Algeria, an official of the African Football Confederation said the Egyptian team would arrive later today and would play the Ivory Coast tomorrow at 4 pm (1500 GMT), instead of this evening.

"The Egyptians are definitely coming," he told Reuters.

The official gave no explanation of why Egypt finally decided to take part after more than a week of uncertainty.

Federation president Issa Hayatou told a news conference yesterday that political contacts were under way to secure Egyptian participation.

The Algerian press had bitterly attacked Egypt for its decision to withdraw, calling it bad sportsmanship.

Algeria Radio linked the postponement of a trip to Cairo by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, which had been scheduled for next week, to the Egyptian withdrawal.

Ghazali is due to leave for Moscow on Monday as part of an Arab League delegation to discuss the emigration of Soviet Jews.

France tame West Germany

MONTPELLIER, France, March 2. (Reuters) France, reviving memories of past greatness, handed West Germany their first defeat in 20 months with a 2-1 victory in a soccer friendly on Wednesday.

A superb goal by Eric Cantona nine minutes from time gave France a richly-deserved win over the visitors, playing the first of their warm-up games for next June's World Cup finals.

Franz Beckenbauer's West Germans had taken the lead completely against the run of play through Andreas Moeller in the 36th minute but France levelled with a Jean-Pierre Papin goal seven minutes later.

The promising young French side built by Michel Platini proved unexpectedly tough opponents as they became the first team to beat West Germany since the Netherlands in the 1988 European Championship semifinal.

France, defeated by West Germany in each of the last two World Cup semifinals, failed to qualify to go to Italy this year but they will be sadly missed.

They are starting to produce the fluent soccer associated with the great teams in which Platini himself played.

France enjoyed clear territorial, technical and tactical superiority throughout the first half.

But they know by bitter experience that the West Germans rarely yield, whatever the pressure.

France wasted a hatful of chances before Moeller took advantage of a Thomas Berthold cross to head home a neat goal with the first West German chance of the match.

Berthold had been sent away by the busy Thomas Haessler, who put his midfield colleagues in the shade and was easily the best player on the pitch.

France's most potent weapon is the long through-ball from Bernard Pardo to the deadly Papin to chase. It worked to perfection two minutes before the break as the West German defence stopped to appeal for offside, allowing the speedy striker to slam in the equaliser.

West Germany came more into the game in the second half and French keeper Bruno Martini was forced to pull off two great saves from Moeller and Jurgen Klinsmann.

But France always remained dangerous against the slow-looking West German back four. Substitute Laurent Blanc had a header cleared in the goalmouth in the 79th minute with the French claiming the ball had crossed the line.

Two minutes later Cantona left no room for doubt with a powerful header from a cross by winger Pascal Vahirua, another substitute.

Blanc missed the chance of the match two minutes later when he blazed over the bar at the end of a superb, flowing French move.

President's XI edge Patron's XI in festival match

PRESIDENT'S XI defeated Patron's XI by 24 runs in an annual fixture of K.C.L. calendar at Sabah Al Salem Area (N.C.) ground on Sunday. The match is arranged in connection with the celebrations of the National Day of Kuwait and is always played in the true festive spirit of the game.

Both the teams, consisting of a mixture of Pakistani and Indian veteran cricketers, over the age of 40, showed a lot of interest and competitiveness and attracted a large crowd.

Ashraf Khan, the skipper of Patron's team won the toss and asked President's team to bat first.

The decision appeared to pay dividends when Aurora was bowled by Itt Hussain without scoring in the first over but next man Nasim Farouqi and opener Khullar had some other ideas.

They faced the opening attack of Itt Hussain and Yunus Chaudhry with great authority and despatched all the loose balls to the fence.

Taking full advantage of fielding lapses, the hundred of the innings was reached in the 15th over. Ashraf Khan tried all his bowlers to break this partnership which was gaining momentum with every over. However, at 128, A.K. Gupta managed to bowl Khullar whose 57 runs included five 4's.

Patron's bowlers had little relief as the next batsman S. Ganju, the skipper of Patron's team was equally in good form. Nasim Farouqi retired himself after scoring 76 runs, which included seven hits to the fence. He played every ball with merit during his stay at



Ganju (right) receives the winner's trophy.

the wicket. This brought Benjamin to join his skipper and both accelerated the run rate with some powerful hitting.

Ahmed Kalam shattered the stumps of Ganju with a beauty after the batsman had scored 26 runs. Rajpal was out without scoring and Sethi's contribution was 16. At the end of allotted 40 overs, President's team had put up a match-winning total of 249 runs for the loss of six wickets. Benjamin and Krishnen remained unbeaten on 53 and 11 runs respectively. Benjamin showed full range of his strokes to all parts of the ground and hit four boundaries.

For Patron's team, Ahmed Kalam was the most successful bowler with two wickets for 34. Itt Hussain, Gupta and Ahmed

Hussain were the other successful bowlers with one wicket each.

Patron's XI, requiring more than six runs per over for victory, met with immediate disaster when both their openers Yahya and Ravi were sent back to the pavilion without scoring by Sethi in his very first over. First Yahya was caught behind by Benjamin after failing to cope with an out-swinger and two balls later, Ravi gave a return catch to the bowler, Jawad Chaudhry, riding his luck but unable to capitalise on dropped catches was bowled by Sethi for 19.

Patron's were in dire straits with three wickets down for only 39 runs on the board when Yunus Chaudhry joined Ahmed Hussain. Both, with some careful batting and occasional aggressive strokes, tried to repair the early damage. At



Both the teams with the ambassador before the start of the match.

86, Ahmed Hussain was smartly stumped by Benjamin off Khullar for 41 runs which included a glorious six at mid-wicket boundary and three hitlet-like fours.

Yunus Chaudhry carved his innings through ones and twos with great application and resolution while playing a sheet-anchor role. He saw, at the other end, Ahmed Kalam being stumped by Benjamin for 17 and Sood caught and bowled by Farouqi without scoring.

At 117, Patron's skipper Ashraf Khan joined Chaudhry and put on 65 runs for the seventh wicket partnership. While this partnership was flourishing and causing some concern among President's camp, Rajpal came on to bowl and in his second over had Yunus Chaudhry

caught behind for well-earned 64 runs. Ashraf Khan was also bowled by Rajpal for 37 as he tried to accelerate the run rate.

At the end of allotted 40 overs, Patron's team could manage only 225 runs for the loss of eight wickets, giving victory to President's team by 24 runs.

Nasim Farouqi was adjudged the Man of the Match for his all-round performance with the bat and ball. Prizes were also awarded to Best Batsmen: Benjamin (President's XI) and Yunus Chaudhry (Patron's XI). Best Bowler: Sethi (President's XI) and Ahmed Kalam (Patron's XI). Best Fielders: S.S. Ganju (President's XI) and Ashraf Khan (Patron's XI). Scores: Rajinder and Asad. Jaffer Beg and Abbas were also given prizes for their efforts in organising this match. Free tea for all, as usual, was provided by C.M. Sahni of Lipton Tea Company.

gave away winner and runners-up cups to S.S. Ganju and Ashraf Khan, the two captains respectively. The cups were donated by P.K. Merwah in the memory of his late father C.L. Merwah.

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